THE TIMES

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Heseltine reveals the deal that made him Major's deputy



Heseltine: "No deceit"

BY PHILIP WEBSTER AND PETER RIDDELL

JOHN MAJOR informally offered Michael Heseltine the post of his deputy three weeks before he suddenly called the Tory leadership election last June, the Deputy Prime Minister reveals in an interview with *The Times* today.

In a series of disclosures which throw fresh light on the Prime Minister's coup that eventually saw him re-elected in a straight fight with John Redwood, Mr Heseltine tells of a private late-night Commons meeting in which he first learnt that Mr Major wanted him as his No 2, another at which Mr Major revealed that he was going to "lance the boil" by taking on allcomers in a contest, and a third encounter on the day of the election when Mr Major confirmed that he would get the job of the deputy if he won.

The interview confirms for the first time that long before he called the election Mr Major had spoken of a significant promotion with the man who at that time was considered the favourite to succeed him if he was ousted by Tory MPs.

Asked by *The Times* whether Mr Major might have made the move to get him on his side in advance, Mr Heseltine replied that such a "Machiavellian interpretation" had not occurred to him.

Mr Heseltine discloses that when Mr Major told him, a day or two before he announced it, of his intention to resign the Tory leadership and force a contest he had supported the idea. He strongly implies that he also told Mr Major that he would not be taking part.

When Mr Major called the election critics on the Right and Left, and supporters of Mr Heseltine, hoped there would be a mass abstention on the first ballot to enable Mr Heseltine to enter the race on the second if a humiliating vote forced Mr Major to stand down. *The Times* has been told by several MPs that they voted for Mr Redwood in the first ballot in the hope of forcing Mr Major out and intended to switch to Mr Heseltine at the next stage.

But Mr Heseltine's closest backers were dismayed when he told them, either direct or through aides, that they should vote for Mr Major.

Today's disclosures show why he was so firm with his colleagues. He explains why he did it: "I do not believe in deceit. If I say to John Major's face I am not going to be involved in this process I am not the sort of person who then goes round the House of Commons saying well, I may have said this to the Prime Minister but don't take a blind bit of notice — you go and sort it out. I would not do that."

He does not deny that some of his friends might have been frustrated but says that such a factor "does not influence my judgment".

Mr Heseltine did not spend several hours with Mr Major on the day of the contest, July 4, as some have suggested. He talked with him for 45 minutes to an hour after the new job had been confirmed (although at that point the ballot was still proceeding), and then had a lengthy session with Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary, to discuss the constitutional aspects of the job and an office.

Mr Heseltine — who says that he is in his last government job although much remains for him to do — pledges that he and Mr Major will never be "prised apart" by the "pressures of politics or by the scrutiny of the media".

Interview, page 8

Now give up your guns, says Major

Clinton appeals for assistance of nationalists

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER AND NICHOLAS WATT IN DUBLIN

BILL CLINTON completed his hugely successful trip to Britain and Ireland last night by appealing to Irish nationalists to help the peace process, telling them to show understanding for the position of Ulster's Unionists.

In Dublin, the President's appeal brought 100,000 cheering people on to the streets to hear a passionate plea for a lasting solution to the troubles and an end to bloodshed. He won praise from all sides for giving a huge boost to the Ulster peace process.

The British and Irish governments sought to capitalise on the new momentum by inviting all Northern Ireland's political parties to preliminary talks beginning as soon as possible.

John Major seized on the President's success to restate his demand for the IRA to begin disarming. "Can anyone who witnessed President Clinton's remarkable visit seriously contemplate a return to bombing and shooting?" he asked in a speech to a Tory Women's conference in Westminster. "People who mean peace don't need guns . . . Now is the time for the Northern Ireland parties and their leaders to show open-mindedness and to have the courage to step out of the bunkers they built during Ulster's troubles."

The preliminary talks — part of the new Anglo-Irish "twin track" approach — will run concurrently with an independent commission examining the key issue of disarming the paramilitaries. John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, said the President's visit had launched the "twin track" plan with the "fairest possible wind". Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, said it had "given great stimulus, great heart, great encouragement".

President Clinton, in his speech to a huge crowd gathered in the heart of Dublin, told Irish nationalists to think of the Unionists: "Realise how difficult it is for them having been in patterns of opposition for so long. Realise that those of you who have more emotional and physical space must reach out and help them take those next hard steps."

It was an effort worth making because "we have more in common with people who appear on the surface to be different from us than most of us know. We have more to gain by reaching out in the spirit of brotherhood and sisterhood to those people than we can possibly know."

Mike McCurry, the White House spokesman, said Mr Clinton was very encouraged by the responses of Gerry Adams and David Trimble during his talks with them on Thursday but had made little headway with the Rev Ian Paisley.

This morning Mr Clinton flies on to Germany euphoric at the way the trip has gone. Not since his inauguration in January 1993 has he enjoyed receptions as rapturous as those he was given in Dublin yesterday or in Northern Ireland on Thursday. "We are ecstatic," a senior White House aide said. "From the President on down we were overwhelmed. We felt tearyeyed, emotional, tingly." Another said Mr Clinton was so high he was "screwed into the ceiling".

Mr Clinton's imminent arrival in London on Wednesday had propelled Mr Major and Mr Bruton towards their last-minute agreement on "twin track". Having helped to put the peace process back on course, Mr Clinton then gave it an enormous boost with his virtuoso performance in Northern Ireland.

Tens of thousands of people turned out to see him. They roared approval of his calls for the province's political leaders to lay aside discredited old pieties and to negotiate a permanent peace. "The message of the people in the streets is that they want this done," Mr Clinton said in Dublin. "They're not interested in all the last details. They want it worked out so they can live on equal and honourable terms and live in peace."

Some commentators suggested the President's visit had fundamentally changed the political calculation in Northern Ireland.

Freedom of Dublin, page 2
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MAXWELLS

Pure genius: President Clinton with a half pint of Murphy's stout from a barrel the Cork brewery had smuggled into Guinness territory

Bitter rivalry for stout coup

BY ROBIN YOUNG

WHEN President Clinton stepped into Cassidy's pub in Dublin and raised the proffered half pint of stout to his lips he started a propaganda war between rival breweries that is destined to become part of the city's rich mythology.

Everyone assumed that the President would be drinking Guinness, a stout as dark as Dublin's Liffey River and as much a part of Irish identity as the shamrock.

But Murphy's, a rival brewery from Cork in the south-west of Ireland, claimed that it had had the honour of providing the President's drink. The brewery said a single keg of Murphy's stout had been taken into Cassidy's back snug with a special tap to dispense it to the presidential party. Austin Kelly, 34, the barman, confirmed that the President had been served Murphy's.

President Clinton had been taken into the snug with John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, and Dick Spring, the Foreign Minister, where they were greeted by Marien Kakebeeke, Murphy's managing director.

Mr Kelly said: "This is to welcome you to Cassidy's pub and to Ireland." The President lifted the glass and responded: "Slainte" (Irish for "Cheers").

Cassidy's is normally a Guinness house but also has a tap selling Heineken lager. Murphy's, formerly owned by

Continued on page 2, col 3

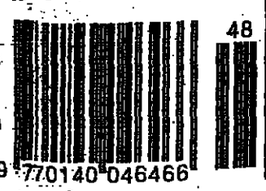


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Solana is new Nato chief

Javier Solana, the Spanish Socialist Foreign Minister and a former critic of Spain's membership of the Western alliance, was appointed Nato Secretary-General. He succeeds the disgraced Willy Claes, who was forced to resign in October ..... Page 15

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The great British beef debate
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Simon Jenkins on why John Major should intervene in America
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Leeson faces 8 years in jail

BY ROBERT MILLER

NICK LEESON, the dealer whose trading led to the collapse of Barings, will be sentenced today in a Singapore court after pleading guilty to two of the 11 charges he faced.

The rapid judicial process in Singapore comes after nearly two months of behind-the-scenes negotiation between John Koh, Leeson's Singapore lawyer, and the Commercial Affairs Department (CAD). In a brief court appearance yesterday, Leeson pleaded guilty to two charges of cheating, which together carry a maximum sentence of eight years.

The 28-year-old rogue trader from Watford might have expected a term of up to 14 years when he returned to the island state ten days ago to face 11 charges of forgery and cheating. Leeson's trial took place nine months to the day after the Barings' trader was arrested at Frankfurt airport where he touched down, with his wife Lisa, en route to Britain.

Leeson's dealings on the Far East money markets are blamed for the £860 million collapse of the 233-year-old merchant bank. The crash is still being investigated by the CAD as is the role of Mr Leeson's superiors in Singapore and London.

The former trader has admitted cheating Barings' auditors, Coopers and Lybrand, by telling them that he had enough money to cover his trading activities. This carries up to a year's imprisonment. He has also acknowleged that he deceived the Singapore International Monetary Exchange, and persuaded it to release more than £76 million, which carries a maximum seven-year term. Nine further charges are to be taken into consideration.



Leeson: pleaded guilty to two cheating charges

In making a plea of mitigation, Mr Koh pointed out that Leeson had returned voluntarily, had apologised for having doubted that he would receive a fair trial and had co-operated with CAD investigators. He also told the court that Leeson was prepared to pay nearly £70,000 towards the prosecution's costs.

The lenient approach to the case reflects the level of co-operation Leeson has given to the CAD, acknowledged in court yesterday by the prosecution team.

Mr Koh told the court that Leeson's "bosses knew something was amiss but took no action. They compromised to obtain an audit clean bill of health".

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12 PAGES OF SPORT

Can Dominic Cork make England fizz again?
Alan Lee reports on the second Test

PLUS:
Oliver Holt at the British Ice Hockey Cup and Andrew Longmore on Wimbledon v Newcastle



TAKE A FRIEND TO DISNEYLAND
Win a one-week trip to California and Disneyland Park

EVERY DAY NEXT WEEK: A HOLIDAY FOR TWO TO BE WON

Major ready for isolation over single currency

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN MAJOR made it clear last night that he is prepared for isolation over a single European currency. The Prime Minister, looking ahead to the European Union summit in Madrid this month, said he would not be prepared to submit to other countries' demands at the expense of Britain's interests.

With Spain and Germany reportedly increasing pressure for a single currency within five years, Mr Major said: "I act in Europe with only one interest in mind: Britain's national interest. Sometimes that means we can't agree with our European partners. If that's the case, so be it."

The Prime Minister's remarks to the Conservative Women's Conference in London came after it became clear that Britain had been isolated by all its European partners over its calls for next year's intergovernmental conference on Europe to consider curbing the powers of the European Court of Justice.

Mr Major's hardline stance underlined the Euro-sceptic mood he has adopted since his re-election as party leader in July. He made clear that his attitude to Europe was in stark contrast to that of Tony Blair who, he said, would never be isolated in Europe.

In a series of personal attacks on Mr Blair, he drew attention to the Labour leader's lack of experience in Europe. Recalling his own decision to secure an opt-out on the single currency and social chapter, Mr Major said that the Labour leader's compliance with Europe would have cost jobs.

"The fact is, even if you prefer co-operation to confrontation, sometimes it is necessary to stand up for British interests. I believe that is the job of the British Prime Minister. If you are not prepared to do the job, don't seek it."

He also used his speech to underline his commitment to maintaining the Union but insisted that his own patriotism was not "jingoistic tub-thumping" but a deep respect for people and traditions.

Mr Major praised plans set out by Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, for devolving some government powers to Scottish local authorities. He said that "to meet the challenges ahead, we must accept change where change is due", but derided Labour's plans for devolution. He claimed Labour "either fail to grasp the dangers of such devolution, or they're prepared to sell the crown jewels of our political heritage in a desperate bid for votes".

Although some people in Scotland wanted independence, there was nothing to stop them going their own way, but it was his job as Prime Minister to point out the dangers of that happening.

Bitter stout rivalry

Continued from page 1

a consortium of publicans, now belongs to Heineken.

When Guinness were told of Murphy's coup, they initially claimed the barman had assured them the President had been served their brew. "I met the President myself," said Pat Barry, Guinness's public relations director. "When he heard we were from Guinness he said: 'I am a great fan'."

Colin Storm, managing director of Guinness Ireland, had a similar story.

Later, as more reports from Cassidy's filtered back, word spread that Murphy's had paid £10,000 for the privilege. Guinness sent a top salesmen to Cassidy's to try to discover what had really happened. Spokesmen now claimed that the President had been served Guinness at the main bar, while Murphy's was dispensed surreptitiously in the snug.

Murphy's advertising slogan, "but I'm not bitter", may now be reworked to make use of the stout's presidential connection.

Mr Kakebeeke said: "We are very pleased to be able to bring a little piece of Cork to Dublin. We had hoped to give the President a real Munster welcome when he came to Ballybunion. Instead, we have brought the best of Munster to Dublin for him."

The pub stop was intended for the President and 150 other visiting Americans, but somehow nearly 300 managed to cram in to the bar, making it as full as on an average Friday night. Mrs Clinton restricted herself to a cup of tea and left after 20 minutes. Mr Clinton, who is not known as a devotee of the beers of the British Isles, manfully but slowly sank his half pint.

Cassidy's almost lost its moment of fame. When White House officials visited it earlier this week, they told the management to do something about the lingering smell of chip fat, or the visit would cancelled. When they returned on Thursday, they were met by an overpowering smell of disinfectant: more threats of cancellation. By yesterday, all noxious smells had miraculously evaporated.

The last American President to visit the Irish Republic was Ronald Reagan, who toasted the land of his forefathers with a pint of Smitwick's Bitter, brewed in Kilkenny.

WIN McNAMEE



President Clinton and his wife Hillary amid the 100,000 crowd yesterday

Dublin throngs to cheer its latest city freeman

BY ALAN HAMILTON

IN AN unashamedly sentimental celebration of the Irish-American love affair, about 100,000 people thronged Dublin's College Green yesterday to see President Clinton receive the freedom of the city.

Determined to outdo the rapturous welcomes accorded the Clintons in Belfast and Londonderry on Thursday, Dublin provided its biggest crowd since Jack Charlton brought the national football squad home from the 1990 World Cup. The White House had, as ever, insisted that the area be closed to all traffic.

Not that even a racing bicycle could have got through. From the stage in front of the building that 200 years ago housed the nation's Parliament until its union with Westminster, the crowd filled the broad avenue for 400 yards. Small boys climbed the brooding statues of Irish patriots for a view above the heaving sea of Irish and American flags.

The Clintons arrived nearly an hour late, to prolonged cheering and flag-waving, following a succession of noisy rock performers. The President waved back energetically and punched the air in delight.

Sean Loftus, the Lord Mayor, tried without success to be solemn, welcoming the President first in Irish, then in English. "We do not confer the freedom of our city lightly," he said, intoning the names of some of the previous recipients: Ulysses S. Grant (small cheer), John F. Kennedy (big cheer), Nelson Mandela (enormous cheer).

Mr Clinton signed his name in a large leather-bound book, and held up the vellum scroll of civic freedom which he can now hang on the Oval Office wall. The crowd roared its approval. With the freedom came a civic gift, a Waterford crystal sculpture officially described as "a synergy between the Irish harp and the American bald eagle."

Mr Clinton then took off his heavy black overcoat, and spoke for 20 minutes, drawing applause at every pause for his praise of the work of Irish peacekeeping troops round the world; for his historical allusions to famine and emigration; for his listing of the nation's cultural ambassadors; and for his quotation from the Nobel prize-winning poet Seamus Heaney: "We are living in a moment where hope and history rhyme."

The final ovation was tumultuous. The President then plunged into the crowd on a ten-minute walkabout, returning to the stage for a brief final wave as the army band struck up Glenn Miller's *American Patrol*.

By late afternoon, after three big speeches, a press conference and a tree-planting in the garden of President Robinson's official residence, Mr Clinton was needed a drink. Accompanied by Dick Spring, the Irish Foreign Minister, the presidential party headed for Cassidy's Bar where Mr Clinton sampled a glass of Murphy's Cork stout. The bar is behind Garda headquarters; to their intense chagrin, it had been closed to regular drinkers since early morning on the orders of the Secret Service.

Rail fares set to increase by 3.5%

Train fares are likely to rise by up to 3.5 per cent next month, slightly ahead of the current inflation rate of 3.2 per cent, British Rail said yesterday.

The rise is in line with the Government's fare-capping regime unveiled by Brian Mawhinney in May, when he was Transport Secretary. Many local fares will stay the same or be reduced slightly.

Although the average increases are between 2.5 and 3.5 per cent, a handful of fares on some commuter routes will rise by up to 5 per cent. Labour attacked the increase and said it exposed the inadequacy of the Government's guarantees.

Howard replies

Michael Howard was forced yesterday to placate the judiciary over his "tougher sentencing" plans after Lord Donaldson of Lymington, former Master of the Rolls, accused him and the Government of taking over their sentencing powers. Mr Howard said that his plans for minimum sentences for burglars and drug dealers, and for automatic life for repeat rapists, would not remove the discretion of judges.

Legal block

The High Court upheld a decision not to bring a manslaughter prosecution against a company that owned a lorry with "grossly defective brakes" which crashed killing six people. The decision had been challenged by Brenda Waterworth, widow of the lorry driver. The accident happened at Sowerby Bridge, West Yorkshire, in 1993.

Kidnap charges

A man appeared in court charged with kidnapping two girls who went missing from their homes for three days. The girls, aged nine and ten, were found by police on Wednesday. Andrew Breedon, 32, of Leicester was remanded in custody until Wednesday at the city's magistrates' court. He was also accused of possessing drugs worth £140,000.

Youths in court

Two 15-year-old boys from Doncaster will appear before magistrates today charged with causing grievous bodily harm to Paul Blackshaw, 18, who is in intensive care after falling from the top floor of a moving double decker bus on Wednesday. Mr Blacksaw, a YTS trainee, is expected to be taken off a ventilator within the next 24 hours.

Times Magazine

A printing error in page 17 of today's *Magazine* has removed the final two lines of the interview with Marco Pierre White. The last paragraph should read: "For there in the dining-room, surrounded by duchesses and city wide boys, I had the best meal of my life. Marco's cooking is out of this world. But then, so is he."

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NATIONAL SAVINGS
هكذا من الأصل

US court jails Bhagwan disciples who conspired to kill investigating lawyer

British women get five years for cult murder plot

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN PORTLAND, OREGON

TWO British women who belonged to the the exotic cult of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh were both sentenced to five years in jail in America yesterday for conspiring to murder a senior figure in the US judiciary. Their sentence will not start until January 12 so that they can spend Christmas and New Year with their families but they will not be able to leave America.

Susan Hagan, 48, and Sally Ann Croft, 45, were jailed for their part in a plot to murder Attorney Charles Turner, a presidential appointee. They must serve at least a third of their sentence in Geiger Federal Penitentiary, Washington State, before they are eligible for parole.

Mr Turner was targeted by disciples of the Bhagwan because they were anxious to halt an investigation which he had launched into immigration fraud at the Indian guru's headquarters.

Afterwards Mr Turner attacked British critics of the women's extradition and trial. The retired lawyer also insisted that "direct responsibility for the delay in this case lies with the accused because they fled from Oregon and then fought extradition tooth and nail for several years". The sentencing ends an extraordinary saga which began as a journey of self-discovery for the two women and ended as a test of America's extradition treaty with Britain.

To establish the women's role in the plot, prosecutors listed 19 "overt acts" of conspiracy, including funding the purchase of guns and ordering round-the-clock surveillance of Mr Turner as he closed in on the Bhagwan in 1985.

Ms Croft, from Greenwich, south London, was chief accountant at the Oregon commune and is believed to have continued working for her London employer, the City firm of Ernst & Young, while on bail. Mrs Hagan, who has since worked as an aroma-therapist in Hertfordshire, was the commune's mayor. Prosecutors successfully argued that as members of the Bhagwan's inner circle they were privy to the plot.

The trial, held in America after a four-year fight against extradition, brought protests from British politicians, including Tony Blair, then Shadow Home Secretary, over the five-year gap between crime and court appearance. The Earl of Longford and Lord Scarman also objected on the basis that witnesses' memories would have faded.

Concern was also expressed over the possibility of tainted evidence: most prosecution witnesses were former cult members who reached plea-bargains with the US government in exchange for testifying.

Supporters of the two women also protested at the trial being held in Oregon, where anti-Rajneesh sentiment was once intense. At its height the commune took over the town of Antelope, renamed it Rajneeshpuram and built shopping complexes, an airport and garages for the Bhagwan's 93 Rolls Royces.

His disciples also tried to rig a county election by providing 3,000 specially-imported homeless people with forged voting cards and poisoning 900 bona fide voters by sprinkling the salmonella virus over the salad bar at a popular restaurant. Some disciples, known as Rajneeshees, have already served prison sentences for these crimes.

But it is over the murder conspiracy that the US Justice Department has been most dogged, sending lawyers to South Africa and Switzerland to track down Rajneeshees who fled there after the cult collapsed in 1985. Die-hard members who have set up a new commune in Poona, near Bombay, have accused "Christian fundamentalists" in the Reagan administration of using the judicial system for political ends in an "orchestrated campaign" to run the Bhagwan out of Oregon.

This week, in a statement to *The Times*, the new commune accused the authorities in Oklahoma of poisoning the Bhagwan "with radiation, thallium, or perhaps both" during the guru's brief spell in custody before he was deported to India in 1985. His health deteriorated rapidly and he died in 1990.

Ms Croft, whose cult name was Prem Savita, was said by her lawyer to be "philosophical" over the verdict. The Bhagwan's vision of Utopia was based on guilt-free love, new age theology and the lavish spending of his followers' money.

Several prosecution witnesses blamed the commune's collapse on the Bhagwan's chief of staff, an Indian woman known as Ma Anand Sheela who is still at large, possibly in Switzerland, and is still being sought by the American authorities.

JAMES MORGAN



Sally Ann Croft, left, and Susan Hagan. Politicians have criticised the delay in bringing them to trial

Ashby says he shared bed with fellow MP

BY A STAFF REPORTER

MPs sometimes share a bed on foreign trips to save money, the Tory MP David Ashby told the High Court yesterday.

Mr Ashby said on the eighth day of his libel action against *The Sunday Times* that it was "unimportant" whether he had slept with a man. "There have been times when the fees office which controls expenditure — they will allow so much and you don't go over that — has meant that on occasions you will have to share with another Member of Parliament," he said.

Richard Hartley, QC, for the newspaper, asked him to name the MPs he had slept with. Mr Ashby refused, but said he would write down the names for the judge and jury.

Mr Hartley asked, after looking at what he said was one name on the piece of paper handed to him from the witness box: "Is it a case of a choice? You are allowed so many dollars and you can spend it on rooms or meals?" Mr Ashby: "No, no. There is a meal allowance."

Mr Ashby is suing *The Sunday Times* and its former Editor Andrew Neil over an article in January 1994 which said that he shared a double-bed with a man friend during a holiday in Goa. The newspaper accepts that the report was wrong but denies libel and asserts that Mr Ashby is a homosexual.

The case continues.

Straw quells student unrest at son's school

BY DAVID CHARTER AND EDWARD GORMAN

JACK STRAW, the Shadow Home Secretary, has held crisis talks with pupils at his son's school after they went on strike over the controversial departure of a favourite teacher.

Mr Straw is chairman of governors at Pimlico School, a popular inner London comprehensive, where youngsters boycotted lessons this week after learning of the early retirement of Winston Manyan, a languages teacher.

Mr Manyan left after dropping an industrial tribunal claim for racial discrimination against Kathleen Wood, the head teacher, who is on sick leave.

The incident brought turmoil to the oversubscribed school, known locally for its harmonious multiracial atmosphere and good examination results. Mr Manyan was head of the fifth form, which includes Mr Straw's son William. In an emotional final assembly on Tuesday on the subject of bullying, Mr Manyan allegedly told pupils he felt picked on by school management.



Straw: praised for his intervention in dispute

Pupils claim he was then banished from the premises and they refused to attend their afternoon's lessons in protest. The next day the strike spread to all years, although many youngsters were persuaded to return to their desks. Mr Straw met students and staff on Thursday to calm the situation. But pupils said their protests would continue unless there was a formal apology and a "proper send-off" for Mr Manyan, and an independent inquiry into how the matter was handled.

A meeting of the school's governors on Monday is to discuss the situation.

Sir Ashley Bramall, a former chairman of the Inner London Education Authority and another governor, said the dispute was out of character for the school. "This is why the pupils took it so badly — because the equal opportunities policy is very real in the school. It is a very happy and non-violent community."

Students praised Mr Straw for intervening in the dispute. Eleanor Newbiggin, 15, a student delegate, said Mr Straw played a vital role as an intermediary. "He's been the bridge across both parties. We have told him what we want. We think he has done a good job. He has been very professional, especially because he has not brought politics into it in any way."

Other students and parents backed the school. Hannah Murphy, 18, said: "I think it is ridiculous when people say this school is racist. It's a very good school; an inner city, multicultural school."

One father said he and most other parents fully supported the head teacher. He said: "Knowing Miss Wood and Winston Manyan, it just doesn't add up. I think it's been blown all out of proportion by the student body and they are all jumping on the bandwagon."

He said he considered Miss Wood to be a first-rate head teacher and said it would be a tragedy if she was forced out by this dispute.

Dispute sours 25 years of valued teaching

PIMLICO SCHOOL celebrated its 25th anniversary last Saturday with a gathering of parents, past and present pupils and local politicians (David Charter writes).

There was no hint of the turmoil to come this week with the acrimonious departure of Winston Manyan. He spent 14 years at the community comprehensive which is so popular with parents it has to turn away scores of applicants each year.

The school was designed in the 1960s and inhabits a concrete structure said to have been based on a beached ship but looking more like a marooned spacecraft. In its short history, Pimlico has built up a reputation to match that of the two grammar schools, secondary modern and boys' technical school it replaced. About 40 per cent of pupils gain at least five good GCSEs.

Jack Straw is one of those parents from across the Thames who clamour to have their children among the 240 admitted each year. There are two Lambeth comprehensives closer to home: nevertheless Pimlico School was his choice for young William, who is now in his GCSE year — the year headed, until this week, by Mr Manyan.

Mourners pay tribute to Leah

BY ANDREW PIERCE

THE funeral of Leah Betts, which took place yesterday, will be screened in schools across Britain as a warning against drug misuse. A television crew filmed mourners in the tiny Victorian church in Essex, at the request of Leah's parents, for a police educational video.

Mr Betts, 49, a retired police inspector, spoke of his pride and love for his daughter who died after taking a single Ecstasy pill at her 18th birthday party at the family home in Latchingdon.

In an analogy based on the family's favourite pastime of sailing, Mr Betts described Leah as "his pretty little ship". He thought he had prepared the ship for anything it might encounter. "One day," he said, "the little ship was to enter uncharted waters, unbeknown to its captain. All of a sudden, a gigantic wave lifted the little ship into the air and tossed it onto jagged rocks."

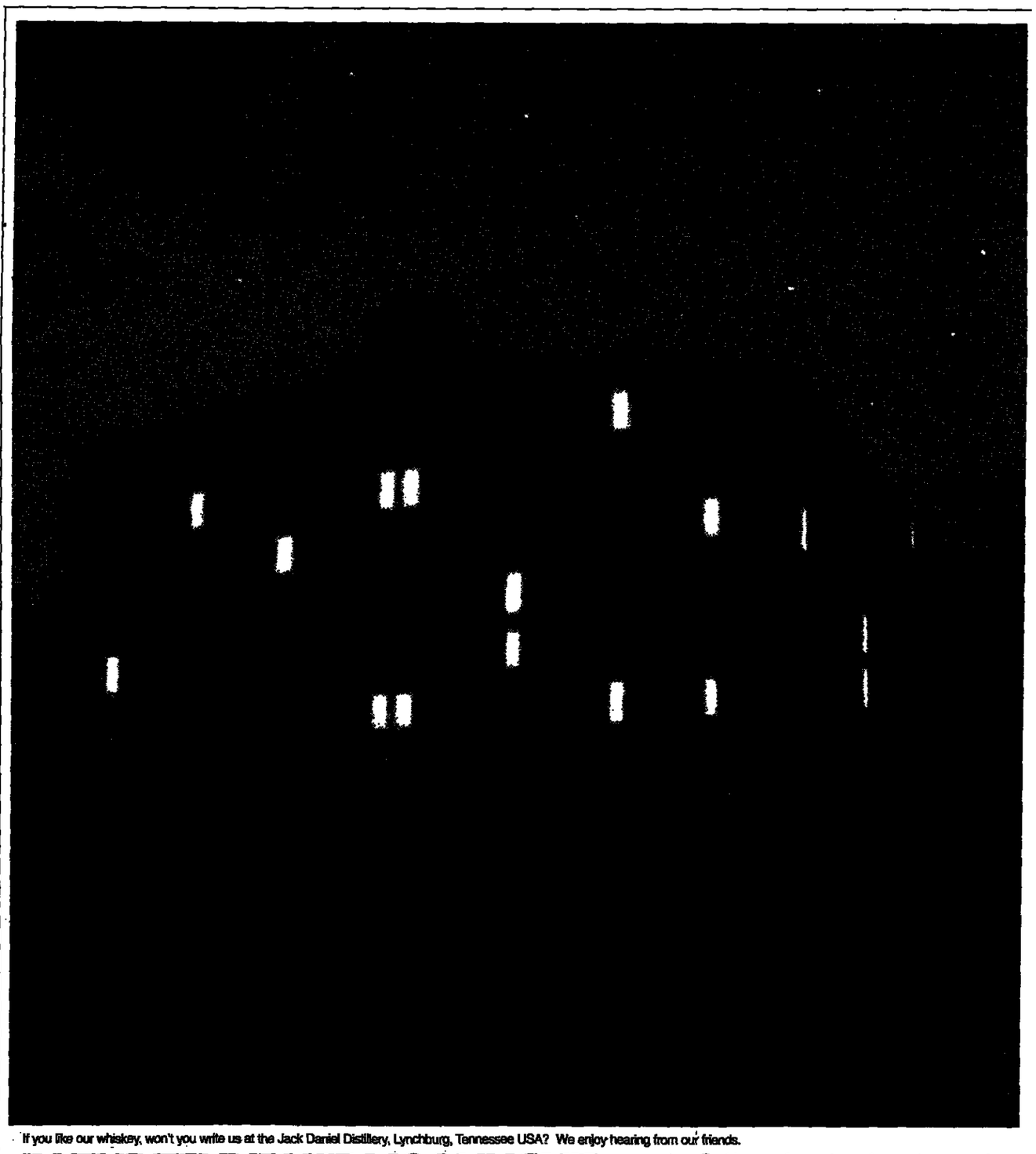


Leah Betts: died after taking Ecstasy pill

Leah's brother William, 11, also spoke movingly of his sister as a "beautiful rose which stood out from all the other flowers". He said: "The lovely rose grew too close to a weed which started to wrap around it and as it struggled to get free the weed became too tight and the rose died."

The Rev Dr Don Gordon described Leah as "a loving, lovable and lovely girl" with an enthusiasm for life who had dreamed of becoming a teacher. Referring to Leah's father and stepmother, Jan, who have set up a charitable trust to campaign against drug abuse, he asked: "Could it be that in ten or fifteen years observers will look back and say: 'That was the turning point'?"

More than 100 people had gathered inside the church, many of them students at Basildon College, where Leah was studying. Many more huddled outside, listening to the service through loudspeakers. Leah's coffin was led out of the church to the sound of Whitney Houston singing *I Will Always Love You*. She was buried in Billericay beside her mother Dorothy who died in 1992.



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هكذا من الأصل

Concern over 'mad cow' disease prompts scientists to re-examine their eating habits

Brain specialist is challenged to justify burger scare

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY
AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE Government has called on Professor Sir Bernard Tomlinson, an eminent authority on brain disease, to explain his claims that eating beefburgers, beef liver and meat pies could cause the human equivalent of "mad cow" disease.

Angela Browning, Junior Agriculture Minister, said: "I have invited Sir Bernard to tell us why he has come to this conclusion. He does not seem to be basing it on scientific evidence."

Sir Bernard, a neuropathologist, told the BBC Radio 4 consumer programme *You and Yours* yesterday that he was still eating steak and beef but would not eat beefburgers "under any circumstances". He also recommended a ban on all beef offal and said "nor would I eat beef liver or meat pies".

Although he admitted that he had no proof of a link between bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) and Creutzfeldt-Jacob Disease (CJD), the counterpart human condition, he said that the risk was too great to be discounted.

Afterwards he told *The Times*: "I certainly would advise teenagers not to eat these things. I have become more cautious because of recent CJD cases in dairy farmers and teenagers. These seem to be more than coincidence. My feeling now is that it is possible BSE is transmitting to humans."


Sir Bernard: says risk is too great to ignore

A survey by *The Times* found growing concern among scientists, doctors and veterinary surgeons, about the possible risk to the public from BSE. Seven out of 16 of those questioned, including Sir Bernard, had either stopped eating beef or were being more careful about what sort of meat products they ate. Although most were still eating beef in some form, the range of views they expressed suggested uncertainty about the risk from BSE which is markedly different from the Government's assertion that there is no danger at all.

Concern focuses most on hamburgers and processed meat products, such as pies, beef soups, patés and stock cubes, in which cattle brain was a permitted ingredient until November, 1989, when it was banned. Brain from calves under six months old can still be used. Since 1989 (February, 1990, in Scotland) abattoirs have been required to remove and destroy all brain, spinal cord, spleen, tonsils and intestines from cattle. These are thought to be capable of carrying BSE, though tests have so far detected infection only in the brain and spinal cord.

This week the Government tightened the regulations and ordered abattoirs to remove the whole backbone (apart from the tail). This was prompted by the discovery that some abattoirs were leaving parts of the spinal cord attached to the carcass.

The most acute period of exposure to potential infection was between 1986, when BSE was diagnosed in cattle, and the introduction of the offal ban at the end of 1989. Vast numbers of people could have eaten infected material in those years but it may take decades for BSE to show.

If BSE has passed to humans, epidemiologists would expect to see an increase in CJD, an incurable brain disease that has been known of since the 1920s. The number of deaths from CJD did rise in 1994 to 55, up from 42 in 1993 and slightly above the previous peak of 51 in 1992.

But most scientists agree that the increase was due to more accurate reporting of the disease rather than to a rise in its incidence. At less than one per million of population, CJD deaths in Britain are still in line with what is found in other countries with no BSE.


Jeff Almond, Professor of microbiology, University of Reading: **I am still eating beef. I have never been a great eater of meat pies, sausages and other processed products, but that is out of preference. I still allow my children to eat beefburgers. Short of turning them into vegetarians I could not stop them, anyway. But we urgently need more research into the possibility of a link between CJD and BSE.**


Helen Grant, retired neuropathologist: Ever since BSE surfaced I have advised against meat pies, stock cubes, consommé and paté, which did contain brain and other cattle offal, at least until such material was banned in 1989. I used to take the view that beef, good mince and sausage meat was OK. Now the latest research suggests BSE is more virulent than scrapie in sheep. So I am advising my children not to eat any beef at all.


Professor Sir Richard Doll, epidemiologist, Oxford University: **I still eat beef. I like it and I do not think there is any significant risk from BSE. I do eat rather less red meat than I used to but that is because of the link to cancer and heart disease and nothing to do with BSE. I have never eaten products such as meat pies. I am not worried about BSE. There is something worth looking at, but the risk is not established.**


Colin Blakemore, Waynflete Professor of physiology, Oxford University: I stopped eating beef as soon as the first BSE scare was made public in 1986. I felt that the risk was too great. I was concerned that the Government was making scientific predictions that were not reasonable. The evidence that the disease affects humans seems to be accumulating. I fear that there is the possibility of an epidemic during the next ten years.


Roger Whitehead, director of the Dunn Nutrition Unit, Cambridge: **I am still eating beef. Red meat contains iron, the most likely nutrient anyone would be deficient in. Deciding to stop eating it is a serious issue unless you take other steps. As for BSE, I have now got to dash off to college, and I stand a much better chance of dying on the way than I stand of getting BSE or some brain disorder because of eating meat.**


Richard Lacey, Professor of medical microbiology at Chapel Allerton Hospital, Leeds: We stopped eating beef in our family in 1989. At that time there was no other explanation for the source of CJD and particularly worrying was that the incidence was going up. I was particularly concerned about my children who were 5 and 14, because the incubation period is several decades. I am even more worried now about BSE.


Gareth Roberts, neuroanatomist with SmithKline Beecham: **I am still eating beef providing it is anatomically recognisable. If it looks like beef I will eat it. I am eating fewer made-up products such as meat pies, sausages and beefburgers. This is in part due to BSE but also to greater concern generally about how food is produced, which goes back to the revelations about salmonella in chickens.**


Thomas Stuttaford, the *Times* doctor: I am a pessimist and I have not eaten mincemeat, sausages, hamburgers or anything else where I could not see what the meat looked like since the BSE scare started ten years ago. When I eat roast beef, I am careful not to eat the lymphatic glands, which sometimes show up as pale nodules between two groups of muscles. I still eat steak but not calf's liver or oxtail.


John Patrison, dean of medical school, University College London. Chairman of Government's advisory committee on spongiform encephalopathy: **BSE has not changed my eating habits. I eat beef and the occasional beefburger, as I always have done. We do not have the evidence to prove beyond doubt that there is no connection between BSE and CJD, but in my view the risk is small and entirely theoretical.**


Stephen Dealler, consultant medical microbiologist: I stopped eating beef and all other beef products in 1988 as soon as I had read the literature on BSE. It has become clear since then that we have been eating meat from a large number of infected cows, perhaps as many as 1.5 million so far. There is still no evidence that BSE can transmit to humans, but until more research has been done, the risk of eating beef is too great.

Leading cooks keep beef on menu

BY ROBIN YOUNG

COOKERY writers see little need to modify their recipes or their eating habits in view of the BSE scare.

Frances Bissell of *The Times* said yesterday: "I still use beef recipes and am currently working on an oxtail recipe for the new year. But I do advise readers to buy organic beef if they can, or beef from high-quality producers. I think it is important to get to know your butcher and to ask where the meat has come from, how old the animal was, and whether it is from a beef herd. I think you get what you pay for. Cheap beef is likely to be old cow meat, and ready-made burgers and sausages could have anything in them. I tend not to give many offal recipes because I do not get a lot of response from readers, but I still cook offal myself. I love calf's liver."

Sophie Grigson, whose current Channel 4 series *Sophie's Meat Course* has included programmes devoted to beef and offal, said: "I have not modified my recipes at all. The job of the media is to inform, not to make people paranoid." She added, however: "I am not satisfied that the Government is doing enough to keep infected meat out of the food chain. But we eat beef and liver perhaps twice a month in our house, and calf's liver as an occasional treat. My offal programme included recipes for both ox tongue and marrow bones."


Grigson: concerned about infected meat


Bissell: advises use of organic beef

The food writer Michael Raffael said: "I would not tell my children not to eat a hamburger. I am very suspicious of the food scare lobby, which seems to have some political axe to grind. Cows are supposed to have caught BSE from sheep infected with scrapie. Why doesn't anyone make a fuss about eating lamb?"

Richard Sadler, chief meat buyer for the Waitrose supermarket chain, said: "BSE is not much associated with beef production. The main problem is in dairy herds. We do not use any cow beef or offal in our minced beef, sausages or burgers."

A spokesman for Sainsbury said: "We are very confident our controls exclude all banned material and our quality controllers take every precaution to ensure the quality and safety of what we sell."

A spokesman for McDonald's said: "All our burgers are made from lean flank and forequarter boneless joints. We have never used offal and never will. We have certainly not seen any drop in trade."

Organic beef is raised without use of fertilisers, food additives or antibiotics, to standards approved by the Soil Association.

John Collinge, neurologist and CJD researcher at St Mary's Hospital medical school, west London: If there is any risk it comes from infected offal and not from beef. I would not eat brain [from cattle]. I am working on the assumption that all this offal no longer gets into the food chain, even from well animals. I hope that is true. Nothing is 100 per cent. With that proviso I am happy to eat processed meat products such as meat pies.

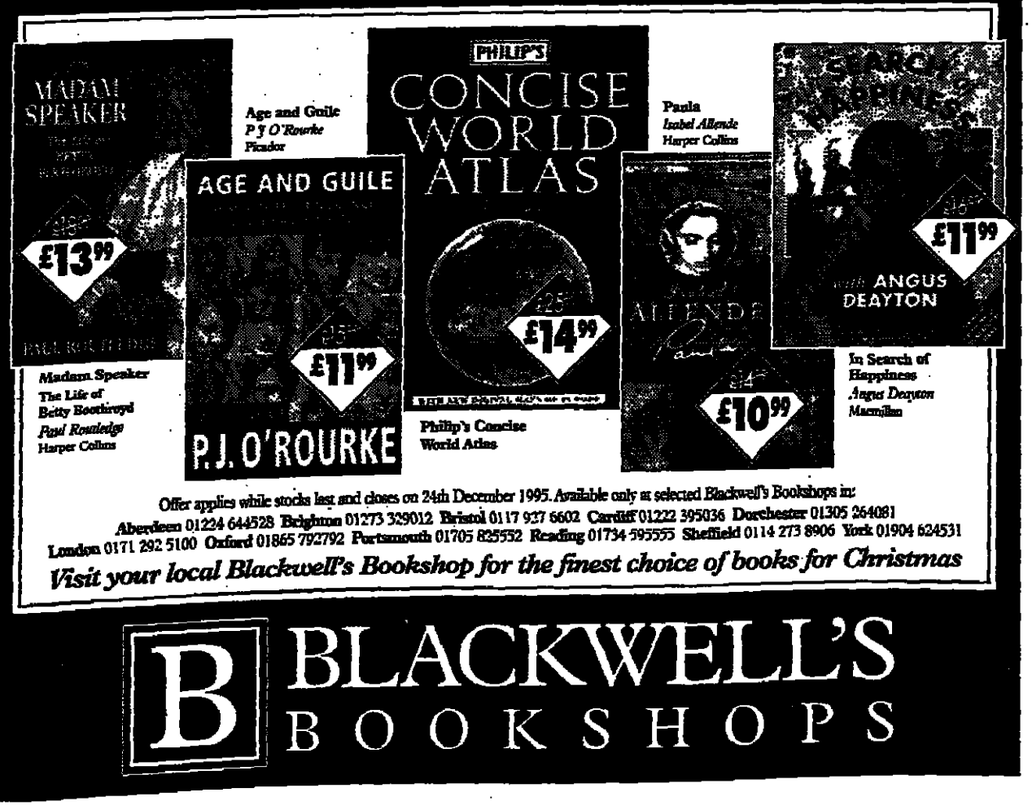
OTHER VIEWS

Alan Hitchins, a London veterinary surgeon: I do not eat beef and have not done so for several years because one does not know if there is a real risk. My children do not eat beef either. It is not a big issue and I do not think I am missing out on any nutrients.

Graham Medley, epidemiologist at Warwick University: I still eat beef, though I prefer to source it from abroad. I would rather my children did not eat beefburgers, but for general health reasons rather than because of BSE. The real danger was in the late 1980s, before the offal controls came into effect. It may be years before we know whether anyone has been infected.

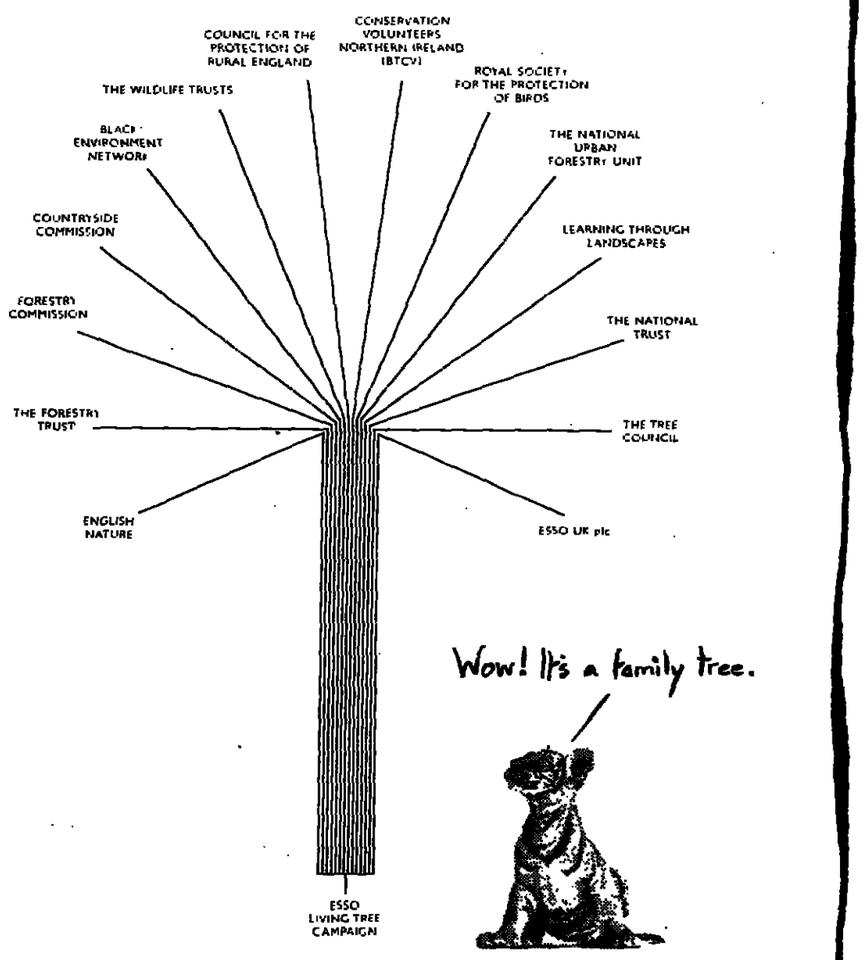
Francis Anthony, past president of the British Veterinary Association: I am still eating beef. I and my family do not often eat cheap meat pies, but that predates BSE. I now have grandchildren and I am not worried about them eating beefburgers.

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

The invisible child



Iona was the dream baby: blonde, blue-eyed and beautiful. Then she was diagnosed as blind and profoundly brain-damaged, one of the 6,100 "invisible children" born disabled in Britain each year. In a moving account in The Sunday Times, one parent describes the day-by-day struggle to come to terms with a personal tragedy: the shock, fear and bitterness, leavened with pride, love and unexpected joys. It is a story of heartbreak and hope that should be read by every parent in the land.

THE SUNDAY TIMES tomorrow

Unemployed must join 'workfare' or have benefits cut

BY ALICE THOMSON AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

UP TO 6,000 long-term unemployed people will be made to join a £12 million workfare-style pilot scheme announced yesterday.

Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, made clear that those who have been out of work for more than two years will be expected to join the scheme or lose welfare benefits.

Six-month projects running in two high-unemployment areas from next April will offer people £10 a week on top of standard benefit if they accept work offered by training companies, charities and voluntary organaisations.

John Major said the programme was an important part of the campaign against benefit dependence. It would offer "a lifeline" to the majority of long-term unemployed looking for work. "But those who refuse to take an offer of work experience will lose some or all of their benefit."

Labour seized on a suggestion by Mrs Shephard that the scheme was aimed at the "recalcitrant few" who did not want to go back to work. Under the new Project Work Scheme, to go ahead in two areas to be announced before Christmas, people will be offered work including painting and decorating, construction, cleaning and gardening.

A pilot scheme has already been tried out in north Norfolk, where 100 opportunities were offered to jobless people who received £10 a week on top of their standard benefits.

Speaking at the Conservative Women's Conference in London, Mrs Shephard said. "Most people want to get back. But for the recalcitrant few who don't we are setting up two pilot schemes which require some activity, some effort in exchange for the benefit received. It's called paying for what you get — making some effort in return for the help given. It is a good Tory principle and I know it is one that will meet with general approval."

The placements will last up to six months. They will consist of three months of training, learning to write out job applications, submitting CVs and getting back into the Labour market. Then there will be three months on work experience projects. "Often these work experience jobs lead on to job offers," Mrs Shephard said.

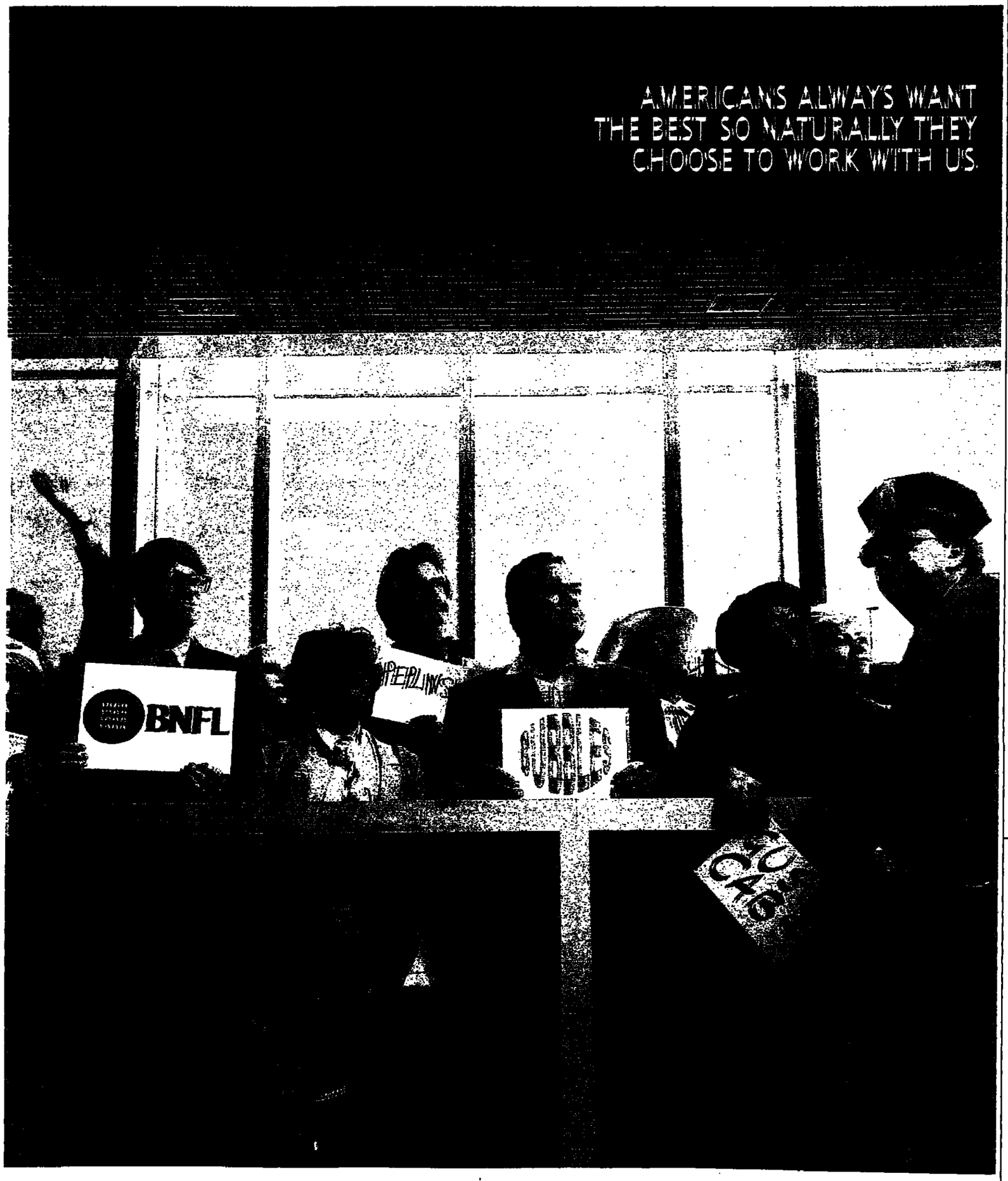
Those who refuse to take part or who drop out during the course will lose two weeks' benefit the first time round. The next time they will lose a month's benefit and a third offence could lead to total loss of benefit in a three-strike system.

David Blunkett, the Shadow Education and Employment Secretary, said: "It offers no choice to the unemployed, while Labour is offering a real choice of work and education, with education and training opportunities for all."

MIKE SCOTT



Tony Blair receiving an honorary doctorate in law from the University of Northumbria yesterday. It also emerged that his vocals appear on a Gateshead school choir's charity Christmas record with other celebrities from the region



The United States has the largest nuclear industry in the world, but even the Americans sometimes need help.

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Chancellor dismisses criticism of Budget

BY ALICE THOMSON
POLITICAL REPORTER

KENNETH CLARKE robustly defended his cautious Budget yesterday, telling Tory activists that there was no "mythical money tree" from which he could fund "unsustainable" tax cuts.

In his first speech since Tuesday's Budget, when he cut the basic rate of income tax by 1p, the Chancellor told the Conservative women's conference in Westminster: "My Budget did not set out to turn the opinion polls around in one day, one week, or even one month. It did set out to deliver higher living standards, and that is exactly what it will do."

Many of his audience had been privately complaining that there was no point in fundraising and delivering party leaflets if the Chancellor was not going to give the voters what they wanted. Although publicly loyal, some are angry that the Government is not producing more populist measures to help their campaigns. They do not believe that Mr Clarke's £3 billion package of cuts and his trimming of the basic rate are enough. There were also calls from the floor for an urgent cut in interest rates.

But Mr Clarke told his critics: "This week I have been accused of the dreadful crime of honesty, responsibility and financial rectitude. The British people would not have been much impressed by tax cuts that were not affordable, or were branded as some kind of electoral bribe. As a Conservative Chancellor, I don't believe in some mythical money tree from which I can pick imaginary fivers and tenners."

Photograph, page 24

Inspector of prisons promises army rigour

BY RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE new Chief Inspector of Prisons began work yesterday promising to bring military-style discipline to his job. But General Sir David Ramsbotham, 61, sidestepped a question on whether he would be as tough as his predecessor, Judge Tumim, in criticising prisons and government ministers.

He said that Judge Tumim had brought his own inimitable style to the job. "Obviously I shall have to find my own way of doing it, which will be different because we are different."

Sir David, a former adjutant-general in the Army, is expected to make his first visit to a prison in England and Wales within the next few days. His previous experience of prison life comes from the army "glasshouse", the Military Corrective Training Centre at Colchester, where the emphasis on discipline has impressed Michael Howard, the Home Secretary.

He has also been to Crumlin Road jail in Belfast when he was commander of 39 Infantry Brigade in Belfast.

Among his qualifications for the job, he listed having worked in public service and as part of a team. "Being used to working in a disciplined environment and dealing with people is presumably what was wanted."

Sir David, educated at Haileybury College and Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, retired from the Army two years ago. He has been appointed for an initial five years.

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Book and film deals will pay for flights

Jailed Leeson's wife to visit him monthly

By Dominic Kennedy and Robert Miller

LISA LEESON hopes to visit her husband Nick, the former Barings trader, every month while he is in prison in Singapore for cheating and deception, but has decided against moving there to be near him. She will remain at her parents' home in West Kingsdown, Kent, sleeping in the bedroom she had as a girl.

Mrs Leeson, 27, hopes to use the proceeds from her husband's book and film deals to pay for her flights to the Far East. Mr Leeson sold the English language rights to his memoirs for £450,000 at the Frankfurt Book Fair while he was in a nearby prison. He was allowed to meet Edward Whitley, a journalist and former merchant banker, in the German jail to share his secrets for the biography *Rogue Trader*, to be published within months.

Hugh Grant, the British actor, has expressed interest in playing Leeson in a screen version of the Barings collapse. His agent has also discussed the project, which is still in embryo form.

Sir David Frost, who is handling the rights, predicted that the jailed trader, who has admitted cheating Barings' auditors and deception, would be unlikely to make more than a five-figure sum from any film deal. Before Leeson or his wife see any of this, they will have to settle their enormous legal debts.

Stephen Pollard, Leeson's British solicitor and a partner in Kingsley Napley, the leading London criminal law practice, charges £200 an hour. Leeson has engaged John Koh as counsel in Singapore, while in Germany, his aborted fight against extradition was led by



Leeson: planning to live at her parents' home

Eberhard Kempf, who specialises in human rights law. Apart from their legal work, Mr Leeson must find money to pay for his lawyers' many flights between London, Frankfurt and Singapore, and their accommodation in comfortable hotels.

Before sentencing, Leeson's counsel had told the court in mitigation: "Around the time of the offences, our client and his wife faced an emotionally traumatic event. His wife suffered a miscarriage at the end of January 1995. They had for some time been keen to start a family and to return to England."

Mrs Leeson, who left Singapore before sentencing, spent many of the final hours of uncertainty telephoning Patsy Sims, her mother. Her father Alex said at their home yesterday: "She is under a lot of stress. We are trying not to think about how long Nick is going to be jailed."

"We will be glad to see this all over and done with so we can return to some sort of normal life. Lisa seems OK in general. She is very strong and will see her way through this. I guess Nick and Lisa will want to try to start a family at some stage but that appears to be a long way off yet."

A friend of Mrs Leeson's said: "She will soon be coming back to England to get on with her life, which is working in a tea shop in Maidstone and visiting Nick, she hopes, once a month.

"The vast bulk of what he is going to make is going to go to pay legal bills. I don't think Lisa will be taking a suite at the Dorchester or dancing till dawn. She is not that type of girl. She intends to live here, close to her family. There is no point in sitting outside the gates of Changi if you are only allowed in once a month."

Mrs Leeson is considering several offers of jobs which involve travelling to Singapore but has put her banking career on hold. "She has to have four or five days off every month to go to see her husband, so it's hard to continue in that type of work," the friend said.

MARTIN BEDDALL



Alan Davies, in the running to be named Britain's top stand-up comedian tonight

Rising comedian rivals big stars

By Dalya Alberge, Arts Correspondent

A RISING comedian who has been attracting audiences on the club circuit has been shortlisted for the award of "Britain's top stand-up comedian", alongside two of the country's most established names, Bob Monkhouse and Jo Brand.

The humour of Alan Davies, 29, is observational and anecdotal, covering anything from his health to his sister's alsatian. "Surreal exaggerations and spot-on delivery hit the mark every time", one critic remarked. "Simply very, very funny," said another.

The British Comedy Awards are screened live tonight by London Weekend Television.

Simon Fanshawe, the broadcaster and comedian, said of Davies yesterday: "He has a comic gift. He can make anything funny. His performances are an understatement. He is so blokeish, the chap next door, you get seduced. You suddenly realise you're howling with laughter."

William Burdett-Coutts, director of the London Comedy Festival at the Riverside Studios, Hammersmith, in which Davies appears this month, called him "a face to watch". Michael Hurll, the light entertainment producer, noted that apart from being a "wonderful comedian", Davies was "one of the few circuit comedians who has a completely clean act".

Seamus Cassidy, commissioning editor of light entertainment for Channel 4, noted that audiences warmed to Davies, a man who likens the start of his act to the rest of us beginning a day's work — tidying up, getting a cup of tea. "No one goes to work and just begins," Davies tells his audience. Mr Cassidy has noted how they give him the time to do that. "You feel instantly that you want to like him."

Davies, who grew up in Essex and graduated in drama from Kent University in 1988, explained that his performances were largely improvised, the material mostly autobiographical. He starts with something that happened to him, or the germ of an idea, and lets his imagination run wild. He keeps off politics: "I'd be treading on others' toes; there's no one talking about my life."

Gulf War hero escapes prison after hijack

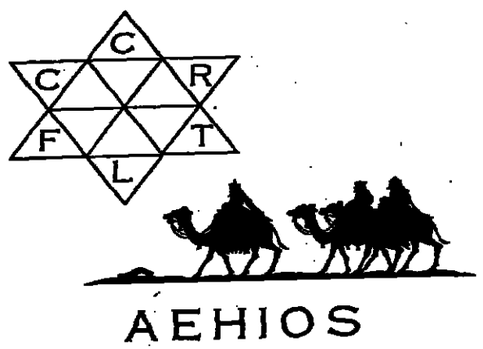
By Andrew Pierce

A SOLDIER who was decorated in the Gulf War escaped jail yesterday when a judge accepted that combat stress had contributed to his role in a lorry hijack. Michael Driscoll, who was awarded the Queen's Gallantry Medal, admitted helping to steal a £54,000 lorry and three charges of receiving stolen goods.

Cambridge Crown Court was told that Driscoll was still suffering from "Gulf War syndrome" five years after hostilities ceased. Judge Halnan said: "I am satisfied that your military service and the suffering you received had an effect on the commission of these offences." Driscoll, 39, of Guyhirn, Cambridgeshire, who was a member of the Royal Corps of Transport for 18 years, was given three six-month jail sentences which were suspended for two years.

In February 1991 he was part of an ambulance convoy that drove into an Iraqi minefield after getting lost in a sandstorm. Several mines exploded but despite suffering a shrapnel wound in the thigh Driscoll tended his wounded colleagues and organised a rescue airlift. He received psychiatric care for a year afterwards.

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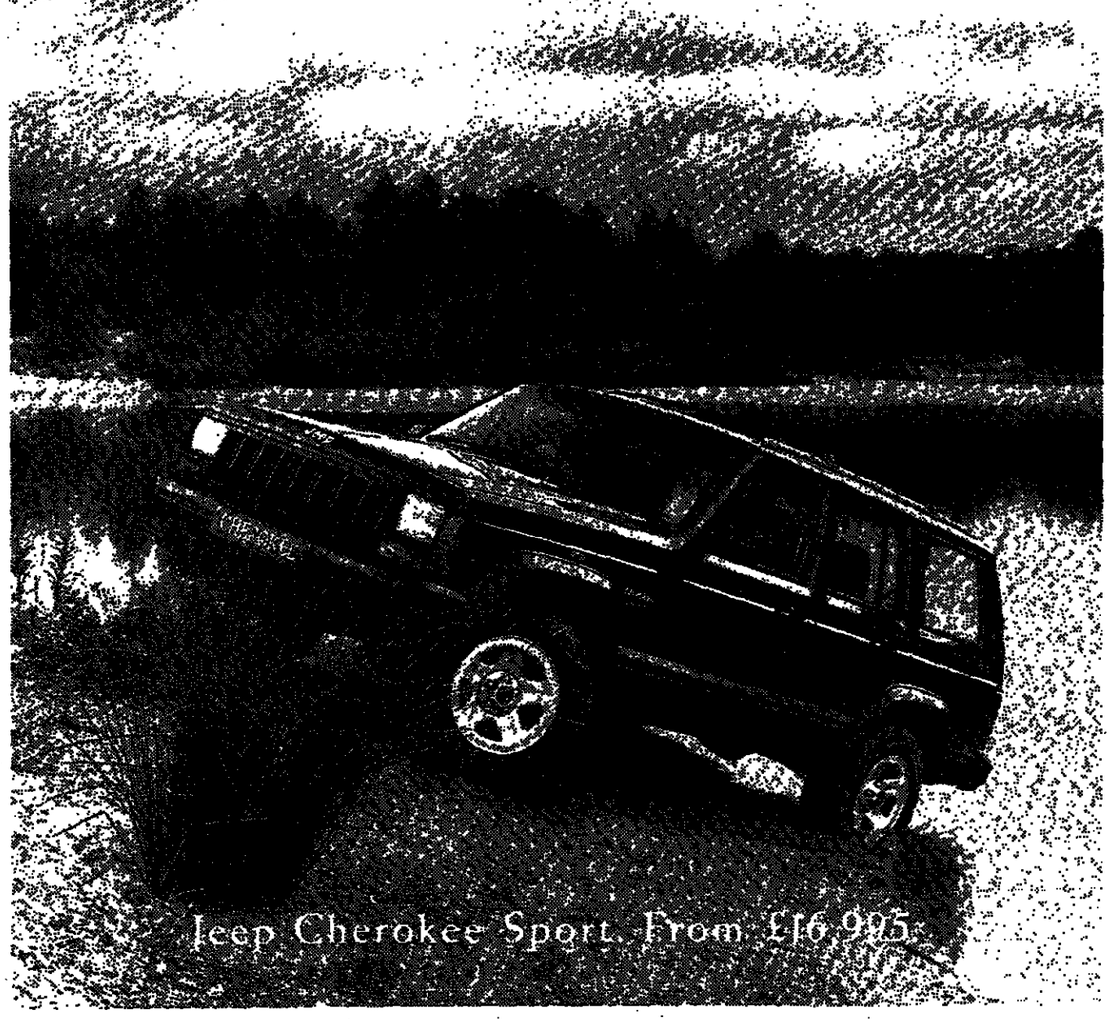
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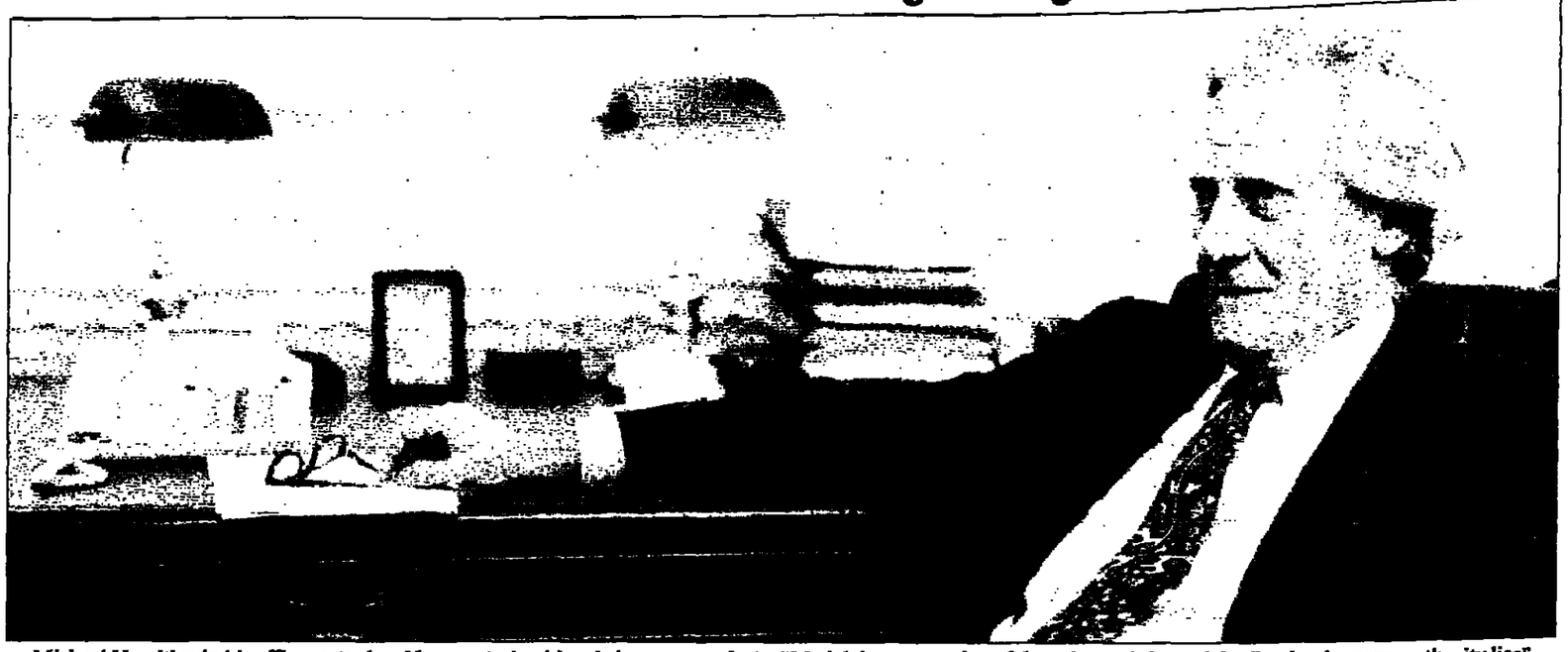
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Heseltine settles down to loyalty and the last post

Michael Heseltine explains the background to his summer success in an interview with ***Peter Riddell*** *and* ***Philip Webster***


ROBIN MAYES

Michael Heseltine in his office yesterday. He accepts that his role is an unusual one: "My job is an extension of the Prime Minister's job. That is where my authority lies"

Michael Heseltine at last appears at ease with himself, and with his role as the second most powerful man in the Government. Sincere in his tributes to John Major, he accepts that being Deputy Prime Minister and First Secretary of State is likely to be his last ministerial post. But, looking fit and relaxed, he still has ambitions. He intends to stand at the next election, and notes that he has served in each of his main Cabinet posts for three years.

He was in a reflective mood as he talked yesterday morning in his specially redesigned room in the Cabinet Office, which is not, as often described, like a tennis court but is more akin to the living-room of a stately home. It is decorated with 18th-century portraits and landscapes from the Government Art Collection selected by his wife Anne, including a picture of the first Baron Guilford, "a reformer of abuses". The famed computer link to the Internet sits on a table outside.

Mr Heseltine does everything he can to tie himself to the Prime Minister, rebutting any attempts to prise them apart. He dismisses suggestions that he was ever offered the Chancellorship as "an absolute fantasy", and denies that he had any understanding that Mr Major would step down next spring if Tory fortunes had not improved by then.

He discloses that he had three conversations with Mr Major about his new role before and during the leadership battle in the summer. About three weeks before the contest, Mr Heseltine had seen the Prime Minister in the Commons about some problem after a late vote. After this had been quickly sorted out, Mr Major asked him to stay behind.

> "It was ridiculous to put me in a position where I had to resign"

"In the substance of it all the idea that I might play a more central role in Government did come up. There was no agreement. It came up as a thought to be discussed. It was left on the table, so to speak."

Although he does not keep a diary, he thinks that titles were probably discussed. "I think it was quite obvious that I was going to become his number two. That is basically what we were talking about.

"Then nothing happened for a period, until we had another conversation, I think the day, or perhaps two days, before he announced he was going to offer himself for election. He said that he did not want to move forward with this particular idea because he had got another thought that had been in his mind for some time, that was to lance the boil. He asked my view. I said, after a moment's reflection, that I thought it was a very sensible thing to do. That was it.

"The next conversation took place on the morning of polling. He said the polls are open, we cannot predict the result but in the event that it goes my way I would like to go ahead with the idea we discussed. That conversation went on for three quarters of an hour to an hour. We discussed a lot of things — policies, people. Then I went off to see Robin Butler [the Cabinet Secretary]."

Seen from another angle, Mr Major looks politically astute in binding in his main rival at an early stage. Mr Heseltine brushes aside "such a Machiavellian interpretation". He says there was no possibility of him entering the race. "It never occurred to me as an option. I had no cause. If I say to John Major's face I am not going to be involved in this process, I am not the sort of person who then goes round the Commons saying, 'I may have said this to the Prime Minister but don't take a bit of notice.' I would not do it."

Mr Heseltine goes out of his way to praise the Prime Minister's qualities, describing him as "immensely painstaking, totally unwilling to take quick decisions without all the information and evidence he thinks is necessary. He is extraordinarily patient in listening to and absorbing the various strands of advice he is getting. He is then very meticulous in explaining to those who are not going to win why they are not going to win, why he has come to a conclusion different to the one they wanted. The people-management that is involved in his decision-making is one of his great strengths; he also uses it in his relationships with his European colleagues. He understands their difficulties and the pressures and disciplines they are under."

Mr Major behaves in this way not solely because of the Government's thin majority, but because that is the sort of man he is.

The Prime Minister has managed all the crises, he says, because of "an inner reserve, a will and strength, which perhaps is more apparent to those who work closely with him than it is to the more superficial observer".

Mr Heseltine emphasises the importance of his relationship with Mr Major in his current role. "If I was advising the Prime Minister as to whether to create a deputy I would say, unless you have a very good personal relationship and you have absolute trust, don't do it. Otherwise, you will be prised apart by the pressures of politics and the scrutiny of the media. There is no way that will happen with us. That is the strength of the position. If there was any question about that, my position would be gravely weakened, and probably fatally damaged. I am sure the Prime Minister must have thought of that. It is a great compliment to me that he came to the decision he did."

He accepts that the role of intermediary is "very difficult in our constitution. My job is an extension of his job. That is where my authority lies. If it was thought I was speaking a different language from the Prime Minister, I would rapidly cease to get decisions taken at Cabinet committees."

Discussing his new role, Mr Heseltine emphasised the importance of harmonious relations with Cabinet colleagues in charge of departments. "They are not people who get ordered around, they are not people who are going to see their ambitions thwarted or their reputations undermined in doing this job. You have to work with the grain of colleagues' interests and ambitions. Fortunately, I have had a lot of experience of doing this with the competitiveness agenda, which is a totally trans-governmental activity."

Looking ahead, he says "the overarching vision" of the Government is to make this country "the enterprise centre of Europe", a refrain underlined by Kenneth Clarke in his Budget speech.

Mr Heseltine presents himself as a politician whose views have not really changed since he was at Oxford 40 years ago, stretching through nearly 30 years in government and service under three Prime Ministers. He decries talk of Left versus Right distinctions, arguing that he could be regarded as right-wing in favouring privatisation, and interventionist — "before breakfast, lunch and dinner" — in supporting active public partnerships with the private sector in, for example, urban renewal. He sees his current role of co-ordinating industrial policy, including the competitiveness unit he brought over from the Department of Trade and Industry, as implementing much of the agenda in *Where There's A Will*, the book he wrote in his backbench years.

Mr Heseltine is at his most coy about Europe, declining to discuss "hypothetical questions" on whether the Prime Minister might promise at the next election to rule out Britain joining a single currency in the lifetime of the next Parliament. "These things will be discussed by the Prime Minister and his colleagues. I am not in the business of anticipating collective decisions."

> "It never occurred to me to enter the leadership election. I had no cause"

His warmth for Mr Major is in notable contrast to his coolness on Margaret Thatcher. The memories of his resignation from the Cabinet over the Westland affair ten years ago next month evidently still run deep. "It was absolutely ridiculous to put me in a position where I had to resign."

Although surprised he got as much support as he did in the first round of the leadership election in November 1990, he believes he would have won the second ballot if Baroness Thatcher had not stood down. Mr Heseltine agrees she was so opposed to him that she was willing to resign rather than let him win.

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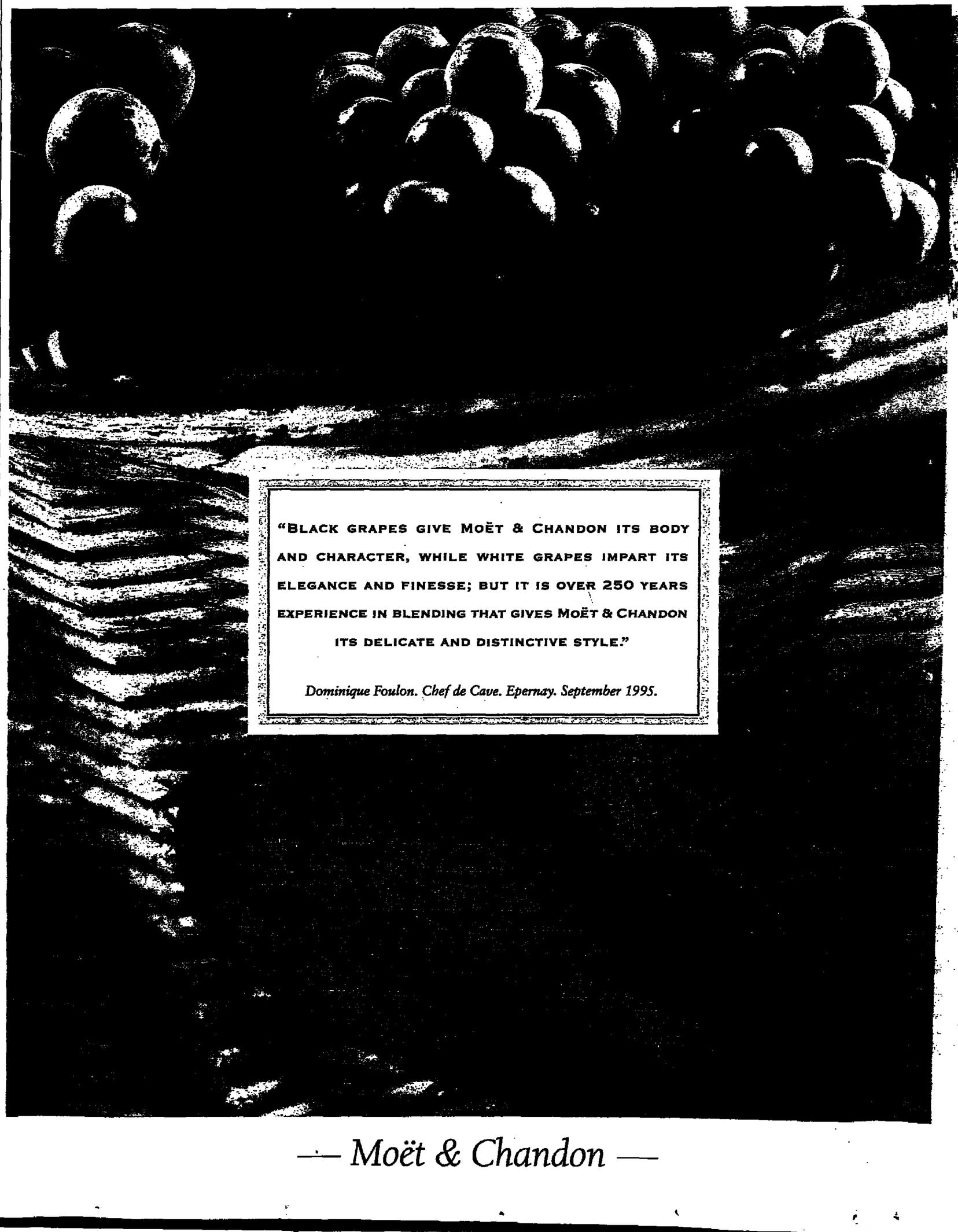


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Archbishop denies that reforms will put power in the hands of the few

Change in Church management endorsed by Carey

By Ruth Gledhill
Religion Correspondent

THE Archbishop of Canterbury yesterday endorsed the proposed reorganisation of the Church of England's management structure as a means of strengthening the Church's mission.

Dr George Carey countered suggestions that the reforms would lead to power being concentrated in the hands of the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, emphasising that leadership must not be confused with power.

In his presidential address to the General Synod, Dr Carey argued that authority was "a necessary element in any organisation that has a common mission". He described his frustration at the "current incoherence" of the managerial structure.

The synod this week endorsed a report that said change was needed; but many members have privately expressed fears that the reforms, the most radical for centuries, will lead to a managerial mentality in the Church.

Dr Carey won sustained applause for his address on the last day of the synod. "Leadership is service," he said. Our model must be that of our Lord in his sacrificial and self-giving work." Talk about managerialism was unhelpful. "If a person cannot manage then he or she is not well equipped to be an effective priest or bishop. But, of course, being a manager is but a small part of being a leader in the Church. If it is not shaped and formed by spiritual vision it will be directionless."

The synod voted yesterday to examine ways of reforming the clergy property freehold, but insisted that job security be maintained. However, several members of the synod described the frustration felt by congregations unable to have unsuitable priests removed. Nigel Holmes, of Carlisle, said: "The clergy must be accountable. All too often they are not." He compared some clergy to farmers with set-aside, saying: "The money flows in to pay the stipend of the disillusioned and inadequate."

Under the proposals of the Turnbull report, which will be debated again next February, Dr Carey will become chairman of a new national council intended to give the Church a new focus for leadership. Dr David Hope, the new Archbishop of York, will become vice-chairman.

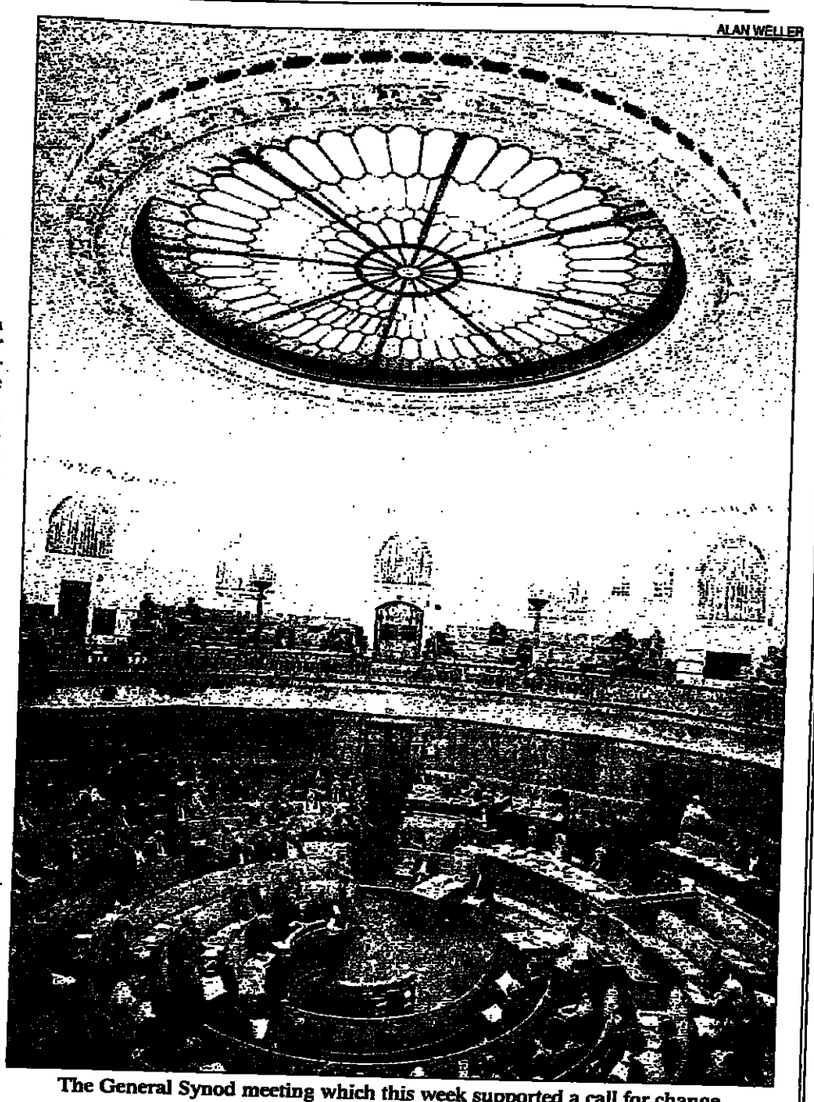
Dr Carey, who is expected to act and speak as the leader of the Church of England but who has little effective power outside his own diocese, said part of his burden was "the amount of time I have to spend enduring frustration. This may be good for the soul but it is not to the benefit of the Church." He said he longed for the day when his time could be used more productively.

Urging for the Church to question anything that brought authority into contempt, he said: "Christian authority does not stem from autocratic demands for obedience, but from allegiance to one another in the body of Christ."

Dr Carey said that although some people had left the Church, there had not been the mass exodus over the ordination of women to the priesthood that some had predicted. Further, numbers of people attending church had held up and giving had risen well above inflation.

At Your Service, Weekend, page 3

ALAN WELLER



The General Synod meeting which this week supported a call for change

Credo

Cry from the wilderness commands our attention

Brian Mountford

Tomorrow is Advent Sunday, which sees the first carol services, of the year. Not Christmas, but Advent — the Church's four weeks of preparation for the Nativity of Christ. Evocatively candle-lit, with music like snow crystals, penitential and expectant in tone, the service proclaims the message of the prophets that God will visit and redeem his people.

A voice is crying in the wilderness, says Isaiah. "Prepare ye the way of the Lord". But why in the wilderness? Basically, because the Israelite experience of wandering in the wilderness between Egypt and the Promised Land is the root of Jewish spirituality. Even when settled in Canaan the Israelite is instructed never to forget his origins. The farmer must bring the first fruits of his crop to the priest and recite the words: "My ancestor was a wandering Aramaean, a homeless refugee . . ."



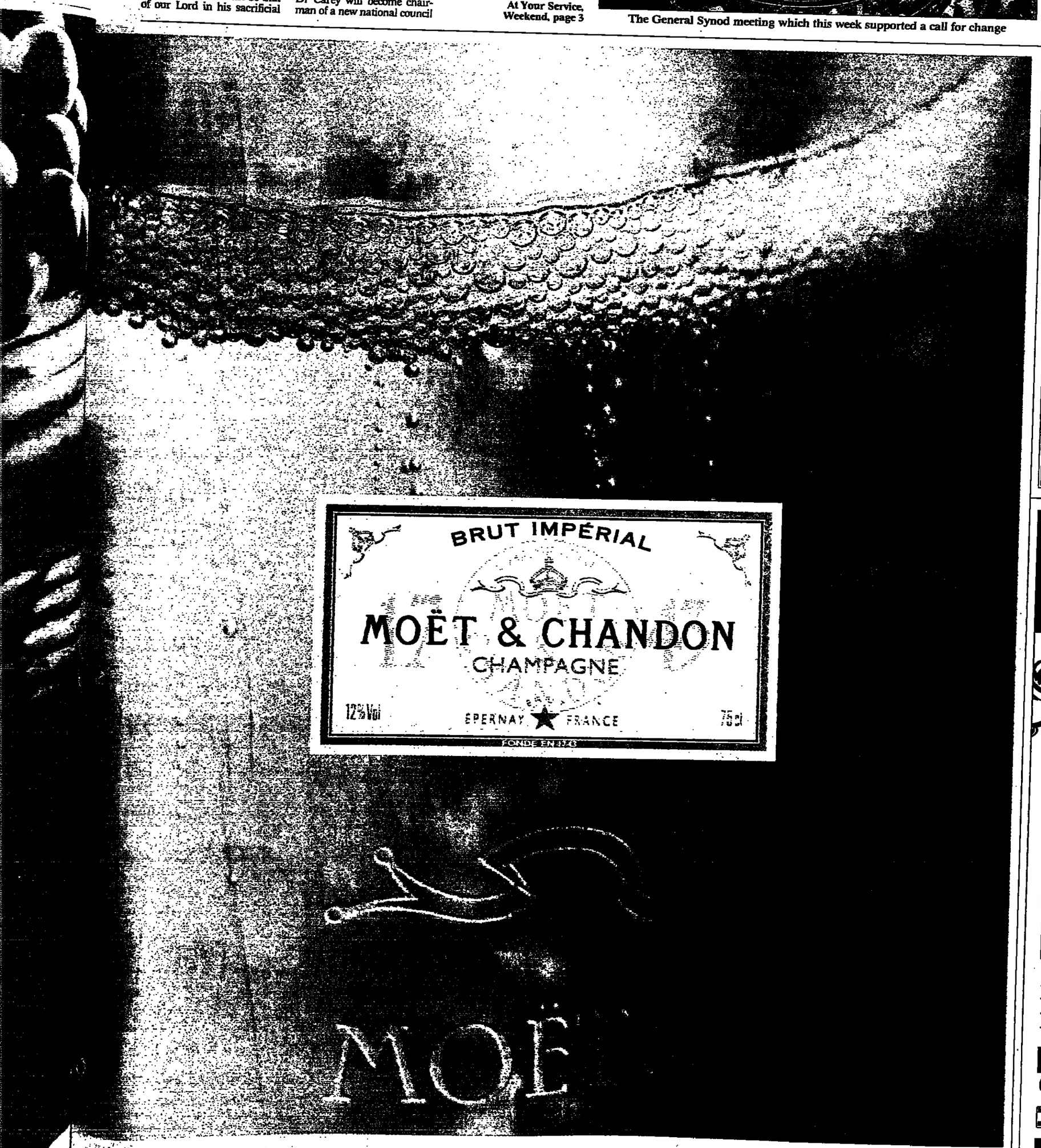
Later, when corruption in national life reached its height, the protesting voices of Elijah and Amos, who spoke for Yahweh, were voices which came *from the* wilderness. It doesn't take much to see how this great theme is reflected in the Christian story. The infant Christ will soon be visited by shepherds, the inheritors of the nomadic tradition. John the Baptist emerges from the wilderness in a coat of camel's hair and Jesus himself prepares for his ministry by retreating to the wilderness.

The Advent Service is always packed with regulars and strangers. What draws them? The words and music seem to awaken a sense of awe at the mystery of God. It is not simply spiritual excitement, but a recognition of human vulnerability, something picked up by the image of a voice in the wilderness: isolation and separation.

In a very intense way this is expressed in Edvard Munch's famous picture, *The Scream*. He said that when he painted it he "sensed a scream passing through nature" which might be a profound way of describing what lies behind the frightening contemporary images that inhabit our screens: scorching modern weaponry, death by starvation, the barren wastes of drug addiction. What kind of hopeful response can there be? Where is redemption now? The religious quest is often shocked into existence by such apocalyptic images, and it is no surprise, therefore, that the season of Advent is observed not only as a preparation for Christmas, but for the Second Coming of Christ with its associated themes of death, judgment, heaven, and hell. But vulnerability on its own cannot create awe and wonder. The cry is not merely one of pain, but of prophetic protest and anger at injustice and moral indifference. Perhaps, in this instinctive experience, people begin to see the point of Christianity's central paradox, that you must lose your life to save it. The messiah was expected to be a king, but Jesus had more in common with Isaiah's suffering servant.

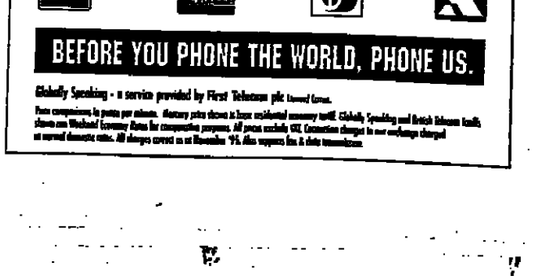
That is why he was not quickly recognised; he simply was not the type. When he emerged from the wilderness, instead of rallying the troops, he preached good news to the poor, release to the captives, sight to the blind, and liberty to the oppressed. Perhaps this is the secret Advent ingredient: people see God at the centre of their own vulnerability, and personal vulnerability at the heart of God.

The Rev Brian Mountford is vicar of the University Church of St Mary the Virgin, Oxford.



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Suburban whites retreat behind anti-crime walls

FROM R. W. JOHNSON IN JOHANNESBURG

TWO predominantly white areas in Johannesburg are to close off streets with crash barriers and bollards as an emergency anti-crime measure, following permission from the municipal authorities, and others want to follow suit.

Residents in Hurlingham Manor voted to build a wall right round their suburb, with nearly half the money for the project raised on the spot by angry householders who point to the 96 car hijackings their area has suffered so far this year. Two other suburbs have applied for similar permission, while the new suburb of Fourways Garden is a fortress settlement, walled off and patrolled night and day by armed private guards.

In contemporary South Africa, such measures evoke not so much the images of the Berlin Wall as the spectre of a resegregation of society. Whites are walling themselves off, literally, from the flood of poor blacks pouring into the cities. The residents argue that many black servants and a growing elite of black, middle-class residents live within their walls and behind their roadblocks, and there is no hint of dissent from these quarters.

Undoubtedly, it is the rise of carjacking which has prompted these measures. The most common demand is for roadblocks between white suburbs and black townships to prevent such crimes. Residents are able to point to a decline in the incidence of car theft once a roadblock goes up.

So far the "white walls" are confined to Johannesburg, but a group housing scheme in Cape Town has applied for permission to wall itself off, and walled retirement villages are already mushrooming in the Cape.

The Government has been besieged by demands to take tougher measures against crime, which threatens to undermine South Africa's tourist industry, its hopes of foreign investment and its prospect of hosting the 2004 Olympics. But it is afraid of using the iron fist against the predominantly black criminal classes, and has responded with little more than rhetoric. Not surprisingly, the decision earlier this year of the Constitutional Court, clearly prompted by the Government, to abolish the death penalty is not popular. This is so even among blacks, who have long assumed that the death sentence was something carried out by whites against blacks.

To the Government's embarrassment, the latest polls show that 69 per cent of blacks want to see the death penalty restored, as do 85 per cent of Coloureds, 91 per cent of whites and 92 per cent of Indians. Under such pressure, Gabriel "Tokyo" Sexwale, the populist ANC Premier of Gauteng, called for a referendum on the restoration of hanging, only to backtrack under furious ANC pressure. For the angry whites of Hurlingham Manor, this is just a sideshow; they already live behind roadblocks and soon will have their own battlements.

However, the pressures which have produced this crisis are bound to increase as the speed of urbanisation gathers pace. South Africa's liberation has seen a veritable flood of immigrants moving southwards into the country, and the number of illegal immigrants is now reckoned as anywhere between two and eight million.

Moreover, many rural black South Africans, believing that black rule will open new opportunities in the formerly "white cities" have begun to converge on them in greater numbers than ever.

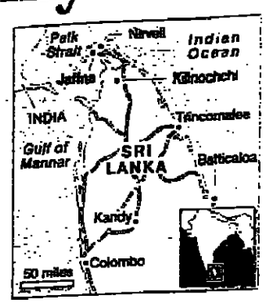
This process is hastened by two trade union initiatives. The miners' union has successfully lobbied for permanent residency for their thousands of Lesotho members; and the institution of centralised pay bargaining has equalised wages, with the result that many industries in the former "Bantustans" are closing down; their sole advantage was that labour cost so much less in their rural backwaters than in the big cities. With wages now equalised, they, too, have joined the urban flood.



Tamil refugees from Jaffna arrive by bus in Vavuniya, a government-held frontline town

Tamil guerrillas poised to attack main army base

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN BATTICALOA



THE main Sri Lankan army base in Batticaloa is awaiting attack from the Tamil Tigers. The epicentre of the civil war is moving towards the eastern Tamil town: the rebels are just a few miles away and gaining rapidly in strength.

Military intelligence is painfully aware that nothing can prevent the inevitable assault. In the past month the Tigers have been trying to disrupt the local administration: a favourite tactic is to attach bombs with timing devices to electricity transformers. About 40 have been blown up. Each costs 600,000 rupees (£7,500) to replace.

The Tigers are moving freely through the countryside, unfettered by troops too thin on the ground to challenge them. The arrival a month ago of Kari Kalan, deputy head of the Tigers' political wing, from his former base in Jaffna, is a sign of the priority being attached to the region. He is based five miles from Batticaloa.

He presents a dilemma: the military knows exactly where he is, in a house in a residential street, guarded by two young Tigers with cyanide capsules hanging around their necks to avoid capture. "Sodium cyanide kills in 11 seconds," one says. "Potassium cyanide kills in three."

To attack Kari Kalan would mean civilian casualties. "Within two or three hours the Tigers would have 800 men on the spot," a senior military source said. "It would be a fierce battle with heavy loss of life. That is why we're leaving him alone."

He added that the army believed the Tigers would in due course try to capture Batticaloa, population 80,000, which they held for two weeks in 1990. "We have information that a couple of top military leaders have come down from Jaffna. Their aim is to create a new base in the east. We are confident of holding the town but the Tigers can cause enormous disruption by hitting soft targets."

Army intelligence calculates that the number of Tigers around Batticaloa has quadrupled in recent weeks to 1,200. The military, overstretched by its battle for Jaffna City in the north, cannot spare more men. The Government, desperate for recruits, has declared an amnesty for 20,000 deserters if they return to service for one year. Many are responding.

The fall of Jaffna City came a step closer last night as troops inched towards the town centre. The house where Velupillai Prabhakaran, the Tigers' leader, held his "last supper" with suicide squads before a mission, has been captured.

Russia's sex revolution boosts Aids virus

BY MICHAEL DYNES

RUSSIA'S post-Communist sexual revolution has led to a steep rise in the number of people infected with the HIV virus, according to a report published yesterday.

Although official statistics show that only 1,000 of Russia's 180 million people have been infected with the virus, which causes Aids, the figure is nearer 20,000 and accelerating rapidly, the British Charities Aid Foundation report says.

The former Soviet Union remained relatively isolated from the worldwide spread of Aids in the early 1980s, due to its isolation and puritanical standards of sexual behaviour. Moreover, under communism, diseases such as Aids had little chance to spread. People with venereal diseases or tuberculosis, for example, were quarantined, and a system of contact tracing was enforced with threats of imprisonment, the report added.

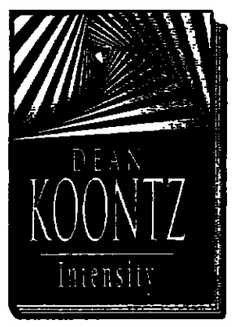
Perestroika and glasnost helped to remove the barriers. In addition, the sexual revolution which has taken place, combined with the weakening of the health system, has left Russia confronting the early stages of what could become an epidemic, the report said.

The strictness of the Soviet system also contributed to the understatement of the extent of the problem. Because people mistrusted official medical services, they tended to hide and to attempt to solve medical conditions themselves. When the decision was taken in the late 1980s to tell the public about Aids, it was merely seen as a sign that the capitalist West was disintegrating.

☐ Moscow: Arkadi Yesinsky, head of the State Aids Inspectorate, said Russia would press ahead with measures to stop foreigners bringing Aids into the country and would enforce a law passed last year requiring long-term visitors to prove they did not have the HIV virus. *(Reuter)*

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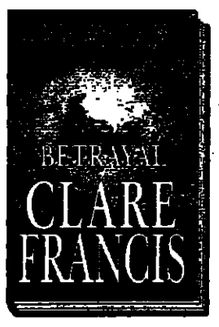
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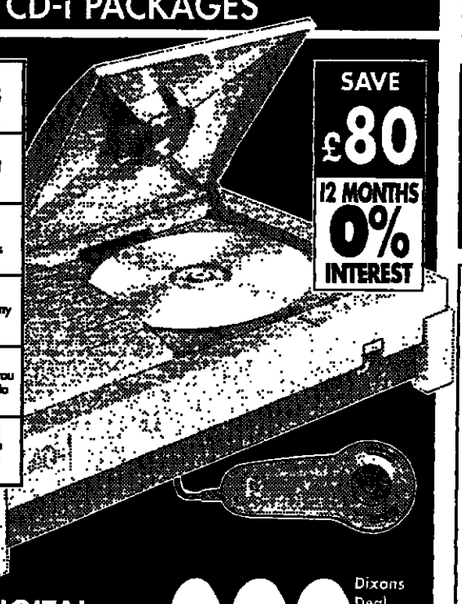
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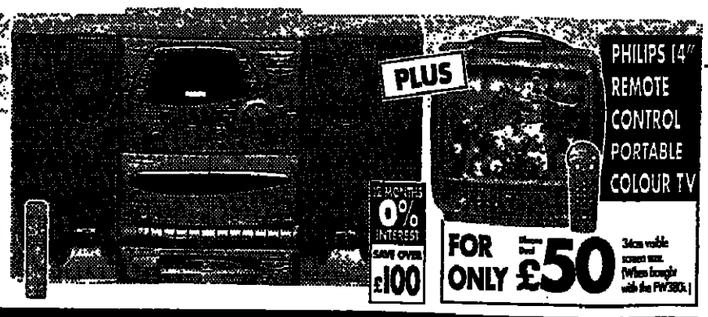
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First Lady faces fresh Whitewater questions

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

HILLARY CLINTON was once more embroiled in Whitewater yesterday, after a Senate panel submitted a series of questions to the First Lady about a telephone call she is believed to have made on the night her friend and senior White House aide Vincent Foster died in July 1993.

The ten-minute call from her mother's house in Little Rock, Arkansas, was routed to a telephone number in Washington that has since been disconnected. Bell Atlantic, the communications company, has said a search of billing and service records has failed to determine where or to whom the number, 202-628-7087, was assigned.

The call was apparently made almost four hours after Foster, the deputy counsel, was found dead from a bullet wound at Fort Marcy Park outside Washington on July 20, 1993, and went to an auxiliary telephone used to transfer calls without keeping a record.

The Administration has always said Foster committed suicide and there was no link between his death and the failed Whitewater land deal in Arkansas. But numerous theories — from murder to blackmail by Mossad, the Israeli intelligence agency — persist.

In an unprecedented demand, the Senate Whitewater committee agreed to submit four questions to Mrs Clinton, requiring her to say whether she made the call, who was called, and who else had access to the number. If the President's wife was not responsible, the panel wants to know who was. Mrs Clinton is being asked to answer "under oath and to the best of your recollection". Four other calls were made from Dorothy Rodham's house that night, including one to Margaret Williams, the First Lady's chief of staff, another to her long-time friend, Susan Thomases, and two others, to a "friend" and "family".

In recent weeks Senator Alphonse D'Amato, the New York Republican and chairman of the special committee, had said he did not wish to subpoena Mrs Clinton to appear before the hearings, but yesterday he said the decision about written questions had been made after the panel had "exhausted all means" to discover the identity of the number.

Although the phone call was discussed only briefly, the committee is also increasing its scrutiny of Mrs Clinton and the involvement of her Arkansas law firm in the failure of a savings and loan association which cost the American taxpayer more than $60 million (£39 million).

Mr D'Amato said there had been a complete breakdown on the part of witnesses to remember events concerning the government investigation of Madison Guaranty and the Rose law firm. He said Administration officials were engaged in a "pattern of activity to suppress and keep facts from coming forward".

At issue is whether any of the three White House women, including Mrs Clinton, tried to deny access to the Whitewater records in the deputy counsel's office after his death.



An artist's impression of the Galileo spacecraft probe, superimposed on the planet Jupiter, where it is due to arrive on Thursday, parachuting through 28,000mph winds after a six-year and 2.3 billion-mile journey. The project is intended to provide clues to the creation of the solar system but its success is still far from certain (Tom Rhodes writes). The main antenna will not unfurl and, until two days ago, the tape recorder was jammed.

Mexican officials uncover trail of Salinas riches

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

MEXICAN officials investigating the financial dealings of the family of Carlos Salinas de Gortari, the former President, say that they have found "the tip of the iceberg" of a staggering fortune.

Daily revelations about the riches of the former President, his brother Raúl, and sister Adriana could not come at a worse time for the Government. Mexico is suffering its worst economic crisis in recent history for which many blame Señor Salinas, who left office a year ago.

The latest scandal erupted last week when Raúl's wife was arrested in Switzerland for trying to withdraw almost £56 million from a bank. Swiss officials say the accounts were registered to Raúl Salinas under a false name and that the money may be linked to drugs. Investigators have since uncovered 50 similar secret accounts in Britain, Germany and Latin America, as well as large property holdings in Mexico.

There are "clear signs of enrichment that do not correspond to declared income and which must be explained", Norma Samaniego, Mexico's Comptroller, said.

Adriana Salinas is also under investigation over a credit union swindle involving fraudulent loans worth hundreds of millions of dollars. Money was funneled from the credit union to phantom companies allegedly controlled by Adriana Salinas.

Carlos Salinas released a statement on Sunday claiming that he knew nothing about the millions his brother had stashed away. Publicly humiliated, the former President, who is believed to have a £3.2 billion fortune, left the country earlier this year and is believed to be living in Montreal. Many demand that he be forced to give evidence as part of a public inquiry into the killings and corruption during his regime.

Raúl, who was a key figure in his brother's administration, is currently in jail, accused of masterminding the murder of a senior politician last year.

America's skyscrapers are past their peak

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

AMERICA'S love affair with the skyscraper may be over. Figures show a dramatic slump in construction of high-rise buildings in the country.

The totem of Western capitalism and fearless enterprise seems to have been stolen by the Orient, with skyscraper development in the Far East increasing.

Only ten buildings of more than 20 storeys are under construction in the whole of the United States, which in 1985 possessed the world's ten loftiest buildings. It now seems that by the new millennium, six of the world's tallest blocks will be in Southeast Asia, with the world's tallest building likely to be the twin Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Shifting work habits and economic migration have left many buildings with space to let. Some people blame the decline on "telecommuting" — the trend of people to work from home. Many modern corporations also prefer to have headquarters in the suburbs, which tend to be safer and prettier.

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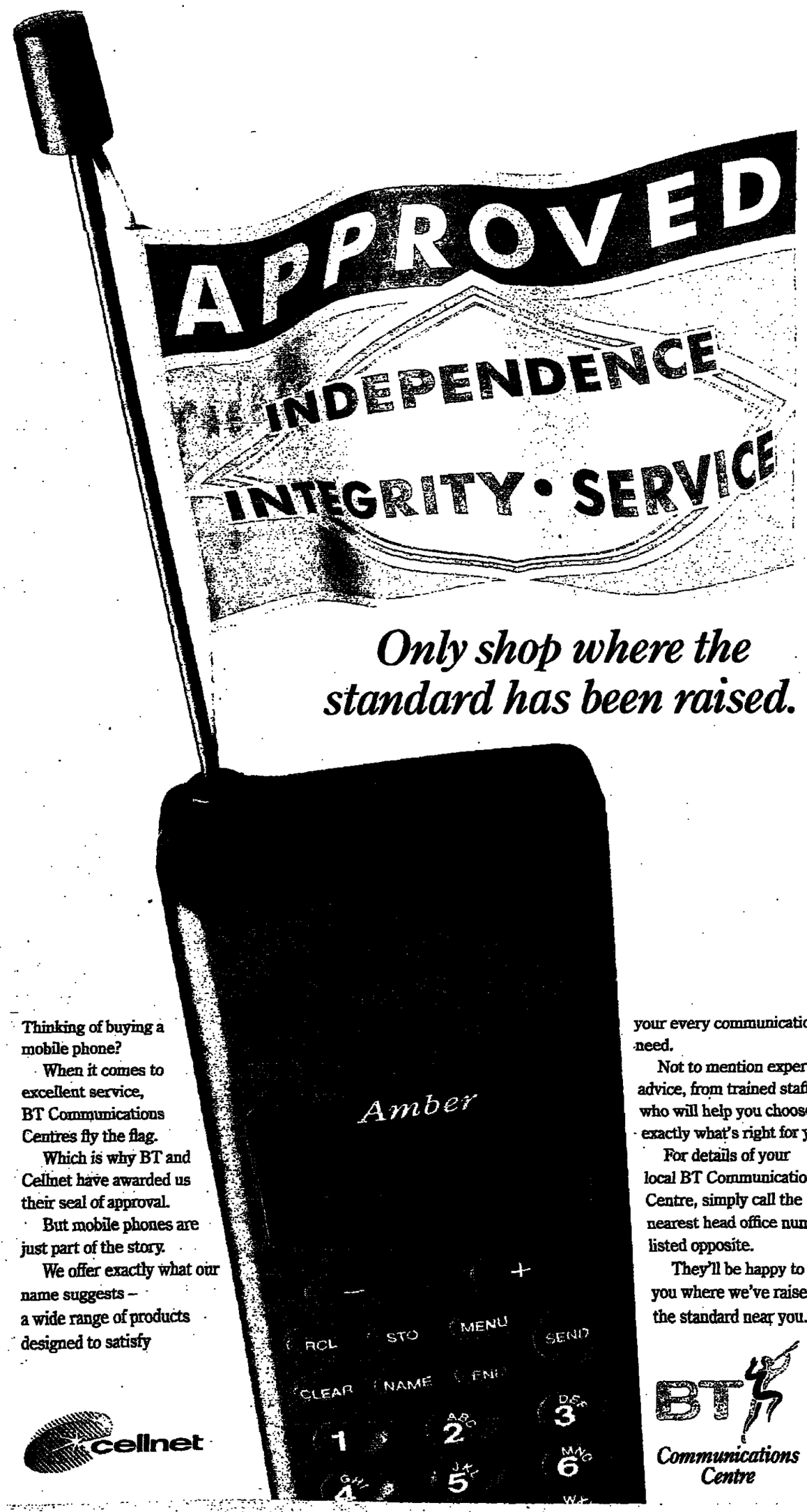


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Peking is rebuked over 'tyrant' insult to Patten

By Jonathan Mirsky in Hong Kong and David Watts

THE Foreign Office yesterday summoned the Chinese chargé d'affaires to express British concern at "interference" in Hong Kong after a Peking official accused Chris Patten, the Governor, of wasting money and insulted him.

The official, Chen Zuo'er, a diplomat with the Joint Liaison Committee in Peking, said the Governor was spending extravagantly on welfare. It was like driving an expensive car recklessly, Mr Chen said. He also accused Mr Patten of being "a big tyrant".

Wang Qiliang, the chargé, was told that such "personal abuse" was unacceptable to the Government.

The summoning of Mr Wang is merely the latest indication of tension between Britain and China over Hong Kong. This has not been significantly reduced by a relatively warm meeting of Chinese and Hong Kong civil servants on Thursday.

The Governor responded that Hong Kong could well afford its welfare programme, and noted Hong Kong's drivers had just been rated the best in the world. This was a lightly-coded reference to the US-based Heritage Foundation's recent naming of Hong Kong as the most economically free nation in the world: China ranked as No. 122.

Mr Chen then reverted to the Chinese practice of criticising individuals when dealing with an intractable problem. He called Mr Patten a "big tyrant", like a man reckless with wine, who would not qualify for a Hong Kong driver's licence after 1997. When K.C. Kuong, Hong Kong's Treasury Secretary, remonstrated that such personal attacks were inappropriate, Mr Chen remarked that he understood Mr Kuang's "position" as a civil servant.



Patten: accused of wasting money

These latest exchanges came on the top of two months of deepening bitterness. Peking has again promised to abolish Hong Kong's Legislative Council in 1997, disavowed the Bill of Rights and embarrassed Sir S.Y. Chung, one of its close allies in the colony. Peking has also outlined a plan for setting up a Chinese-picked parallel government here, six months before the handover on July 1, 1997. A Peking official here has warned Hong Kong journalists to "love China".

Peking is making clear to the colony that Mr Patten is beyond the pale and that except for detailed negotiating points, such as the readjustment of colonial laws to post-1997 conditions, China is already the master.

This attitude has been plain since the elections in September when, for the first time, the Legislative Council was wholly elected, in accordance with the Patten reforms. The elections were a triumph for the democratic forces and a failure for some of Peking's favourites. Peking's rage at its embarrassment is reflected in its now almost-daily savaging of Mr Patten and his policies.

The anger is heightened because Peking cannot influence today's elections in Taiwan, despite its threats and military manoeuvres this week. A Peking resident said: "They're furious with the woman they can't have, so they're taking it out on the woman they can."

For Mr Patten, denunciation is nothing new: for the first two years of his appointment he was excoriated as a "whore", "serpent", and "disgraced for a thousand years".

☐ **Taipei:** Taiwan police averted an attempt to bomb President Lee Teng-hui's residence on the eve of today's election. A man was arrested after trying to drive a lorry carrying 132 lb of gunpowder into the residence. *(Reuter)*



President Castro of Cuba braves icy weather at the Great Wall of China yesterday on his first visit to the country. He had to be supported by guards at the wall

Zhirinovsky fails to woo pit town in Siberia

From Richard Beeston in Kemerovo, Russia



WHEN Vladimir Zhirinovsky's private plane landed on the snow-covered runway of this Siberian town, the Russian ultra-nationalist leader expected below zero temperatures but a warm welcome from the restive voters of the coal-mining community.

Fed up with low — and often late — wages, rising crime and threatened pit closures, residents of the Kuzbass mining region should have been ripe for the well-rehearsed mix of populist slogans and angry outbursts that have marked Mr Zhirinovsky's energetic campaign.

For the head of the Liberal Democratic Party, as his neo-Fascist movement is known, his Siberian tour received a cool reception in this constituency, regarded by pundits as an electoral weather-vane for the whole of Russia.

"All the main politicians come here because you cannot afford to ignore this region," said Yurri Dyakonov, the deputy editor of the local daily *Kuzbass*, who reeled off the names of leading politicians who had campaigned in Kemerovo with two weeks to go before election day: "No one in Moscow forgets 1991, when our miners came out on strike and were decisive in removing Gorbachev and bringing Yeltsin to power."

With this image in mind, Mr Zhirinovsky hoped to rally the public again, using the same tactics which won him nearly a third of the electorate's support here at the last parliamentary polls. In a 45-minute television broadcast paid for by his party, he ranted against the liberals, whom he denounced as a "fifth column", promised to crack down on criminals and pledged to make Russia great again. "If you vote for me you will see change," he growled. "If you vote for the others you will get more of the same."

For those not interested in his politics, he handed out bottles of his "Zhirinovsky vodka", copies of his Zhirinovsky watch and even brought in his own football team to play against a local amateur club. In spite of his solid television performance and his publicity stunts, even local party campaigners admitted that the political maverick had failed to shore up his sinking popularity and damaged image. Instead his supporters are turning elsewhere, particularly to the Communists and to General Aleksandr Lebed, the new champion of the nationalist cause.

In a straw poll taken in Keremovo on the day of Mr Zhirinovsky's visit this week it was clear that many of his supporters in the last polls felt disappointed, cheated and even disgusted by their former hero.

"I voted for Zhirinovsky last time, but now I am reconsidering," said Vladimir Barbashin, a retired miner living on a pension of about £40 a month. "Now he is just a joker, a laughing stock."

Julia Streja, another former supporter of the Liberal Democratic Party, said she was switching her alliance because of Mr Zhirinovsky's unseemly escapades in public. In particular, she resented his participation in a recent brawl in the Duma, the Lower House of parliament, where he was seen grabbing a woman deputy by the hair and choking her.

Certainly, his television performance in Keremovo did little to sway a group of undecided voters at a small café in the city centre. "I don't understand what he is going on about," said Valentina Petrovna.

"Don't pay him any attention, he is just a clown," said the proprietor, who by popular request switched channels to the American soap opera, *Santa Barbara*.

Cairo belly-dancers fear Russian rivals

From Christopher Walker in Cairo

FACED with death threats from Islamic militants, the thousands of belly-dancers in Egypt fear an even greater danger to their livelihoods by an invasion of parvenues from the former Soviet Union, who have learnt the art from videos sent to ballet schools.

Some Egyptian dancers have called for the 300 former Soviet dancers already here to be banned because they are degrading the oriental mystique of the shows. Club managers claim that the demand has been sparked by the fact that the northerners are prepared to perform for much less money.

"A top Egyptian dancer like Fifi Abdou can command 6,000 Egyptian pounds (£1,115) for half an hour's dancing, where a Russian equivalent would be lucky to get 800 pounds," Magdy Sobhy, a nightclub manager, said.

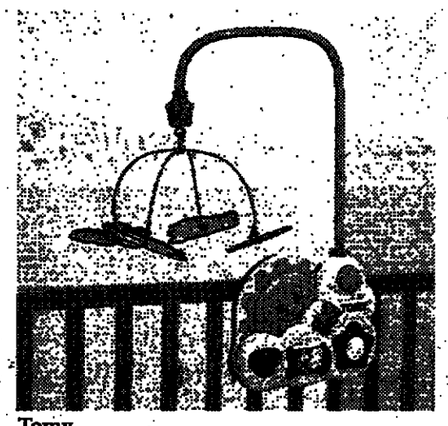
"Every month they send us scores of videos of potential dancers from Russia or the Ukraine and we choose the best," Mr Sobhy added. The main complaint of the native dancers is that the Russians are willing to show more flesh for less money and also are available for what one termed "special services" after the shows.

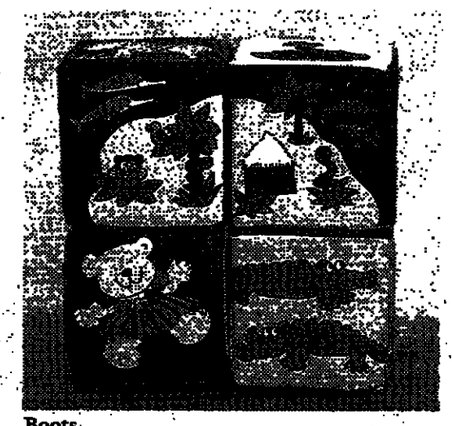
Most of the foreign dancers arrive on six-month contracts which include hotel accommodation. A number allege there is heavy pressure to double up as prostitutes.

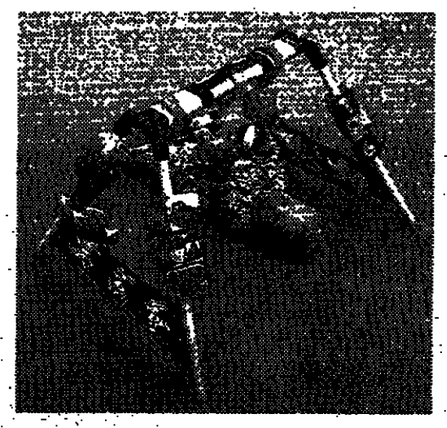
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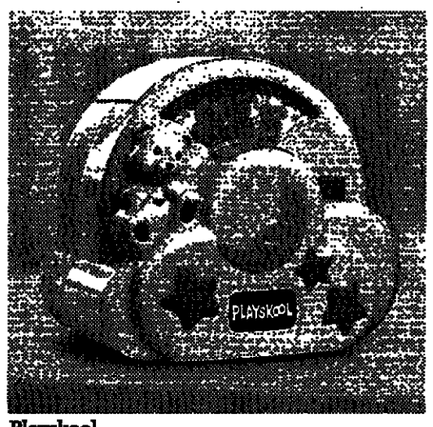
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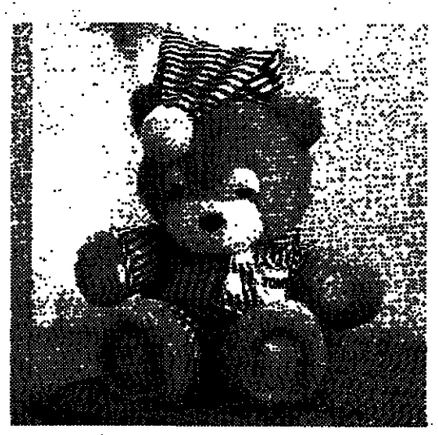

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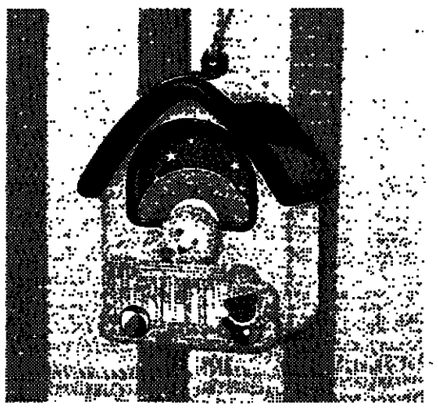

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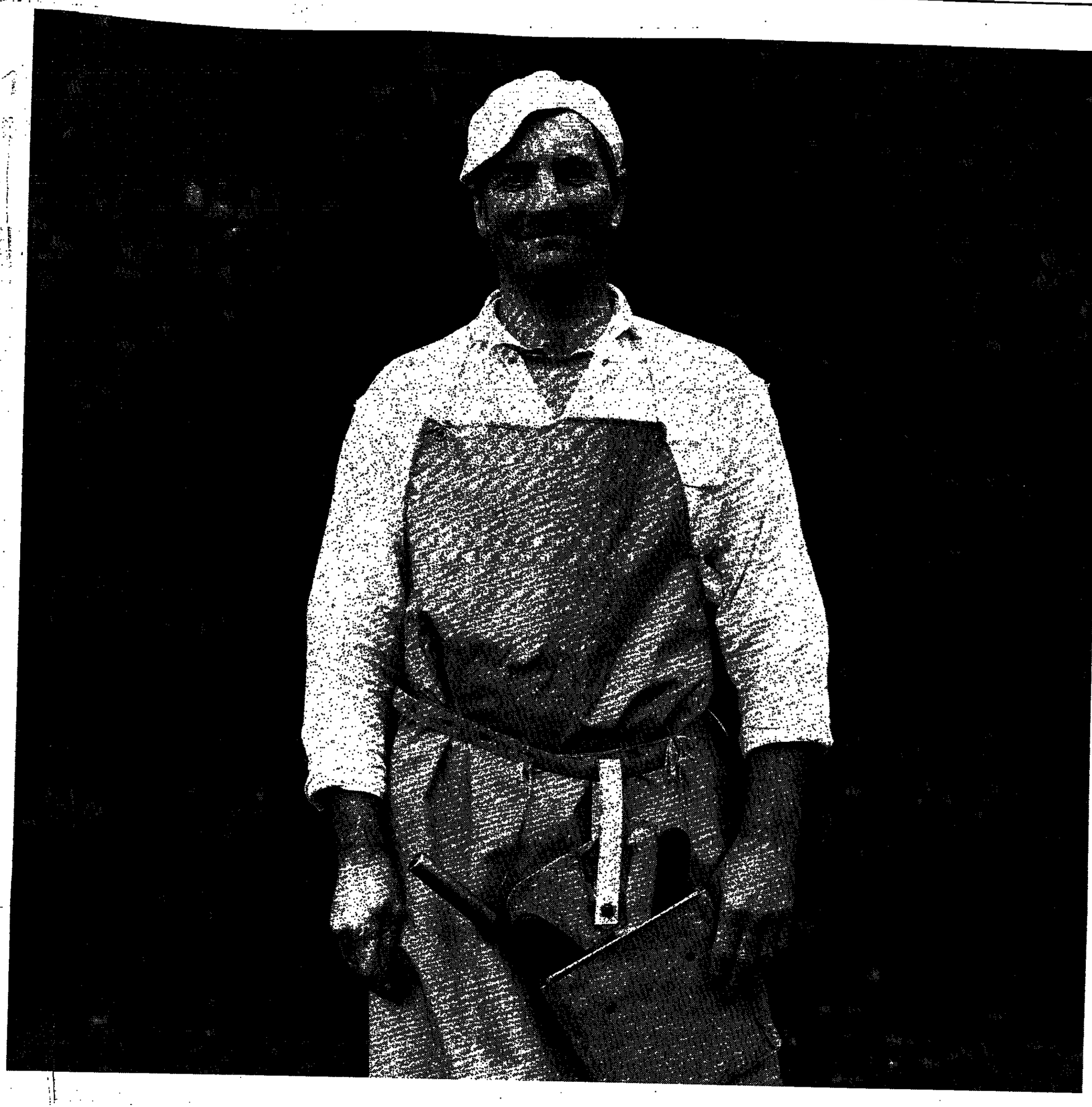
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هكذا من الأصل

First task facing Solana is to carry out Dayton accord on Bosnia peace deal

Spaniard who was Nato opponent to head alliance

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS AND EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID

THE Nato alliance yesterday ended an embarrassing six-week wrangle over its leadership and agreed to appoint Javier Solana, the Spanish Foreign Minister and a one-time Nato opponent, as Secretary-General in succession to Willy Claes.

Nato's 16 foreign ministers will anoint Señor Solana, who has served in the Spanish Cabinet since 1982, at a Brussels meeting on Tuesday. His nomination as Nato's ninth Secretary-General and the first from a southern member since 1971, is novel because Spain, like France, is not a member of the integrated military command. Moreover, Señor Solana opposed American bases in Spain in the 1970s and campaigned as an opposition deputy against entry to the alliance in 1982.

The later pro-Atlantic shift by the Government of Felipe González and Spain's subsequent exemplary conduct in Nato have erased that past, diplomats said. Spanish F18 fighter-bombers were, for example, credited with effective action in the Nato operation in Bosnia this summer.

Señor Solana, who said he was "deeply moved" by the appointment, said his first task would be to implement the Bosnia agreement signed in Dayton. "We will have to use all our capacity to make it succeed," he added. Part of that task will be helping to convince the US Congress to support the deployment of American ground forces.

The decision to appoint the capable but uncharismatic Spaniard prompted relief but little excitement at Nato headquarters, where work on the Bosnian operation has proceeded against a backdrop of international recriminations over the alliance's top civilian post. Britain was widely blamed for the diplomatic stumble which led to the American rejection of Ruud Lubbers, the Dutch politician who was Europe's first choice after Mr Claes was forced to resign over a Belgian political scandal. France and Greece then blocked Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, the Danish opposition leader.

The compromise choice of Señor Solana, 53, who had not even declared himself a candidate, followed discreet lobbying by Señor González, the Spanish Prime Minister. His departure, while winning prestige for Spain, will leave a big vacuum in the beleaguered González team; he had been widely seen as the most likely successor as Socialist party leader if Señor González steps down at the next general elections, due in March.

President Chirac of France supported Señor Solana as preferable to Mr Ellemann-Jensen, although his skill in the French language is little better than the Dane's. France had insisted that the job must go to a man fluent in the alliance's other official language. Strong American support, announced on Thursday, helped to overcome German and British misgivings over Señor Solana's qualifications. Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, said last night that Señor Solana had "the right qualities and experience".

While the Foreign Office had no objections, Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, was reported to have had qualms, and Tory Eurosceptics lobbied this week to block the appointment.

President Clinton will meet Señor Solana when he visits Madrid today on the last leg of a European tour which has gone some way to smoothing European feathers ruffled by Washington's blunt behaviour over the appointment.



Javier Solana, Spain's Foreign Minister, speaking to reporters in Madrid yesterday about his appointment

Socialist with a diplomatic gift for moderation

BY TUNKU VARADARAJAN

JAVIER SOLANA, the new Nato Secretary-General, comes from a distinguished line of Spanish diplomats. His grandfather, Salvador de Madariaga, was his country's delegate at the League of Nations.

Like his grandfather, who exiled himself to Oxford University after the Spanish Civil War, Señor Solana is a fluent English-speaker. A physicist by training, he was a Fulbright scholar in the late 1960s.

Señor Solana joined the Young Socialists, then a clandestine organisation, in 1973 while a lecturer in solid-state physics at the Complutense University in Madrid. He was made a professor in 1975. In 1977 he was elected to the Cortes as a Socialist deputy and has been a member of every parliament since then.

With the exception of Felipe González, the Prime Minister, Señor Solana is the only member of the Spanish Government who has been in every Cabinet since the Socialists won power in 1982.

He has, in the past, been Minister for both Culture and Education. In 1985, during the referendum on Nato membership, Señor Solana was also the official spokesman of a Government which was campaigning for Spain to stay.

His three years as Foreign Minister have been marked by a pragmatism not shown by his predecessors. During the fisheries crisis with Canada earlier this year, Señor Solana's was a rare voice of moderation in Madrid.

France 'set to recall thousands of troops from former African colonies'

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE winds of change are sweeping through France's former colonies amid reports that Paris is planning to recall thousands of troops from Africa after a review of its global defence commitments.

Nearly 800 soldiers in Chad will soon be brought back, while military bases at Libreville in Gabon, Abidjan in Ivory Coast and Bangui in the Central African Republic could be closed down, *Libération* reported yesterday. Half the 3,400 troops stationed in Djibouti, the largest French military base in Africa, will be sent home, but the French naval depot at Dakar in Senegal and a military base at Bouar in the Central African Republic are expected to remain open.

News of the military cuts came on the eve of a summit for French-speaking nations in Benin, which President Chirac is due to attend. France retains about 8,000 troops in Africa under various defence treaties and military assistance agreements.

Their duties range from humanitarian operations to military intervention in the event of external aggression. Most recently French troops stepped in when Bob Denard, the mercenary, attempted to stage a coup in the Comoros Islands. France's vital interests in Africa have steadily declined over the past ten years and plans to scale back the French military presence there have been under discussion since before M Chirac's election last May. The Government is also expected to cut French ground forces as part of an overall review.

While French troops represent a crucial source of income to many African states, they have also become a volatile factor in local politics. African governments tend to regard the French presence as an insurance policy against violent upheaval, while opposition groups are often quick to brand them as "forces of occupation".

Some French deployments have simply become outdated, such as the troops and jet fighters sent on a "temporary" basis to Chad a decade ago to face a military threat from Libya which no longer exists. The recalling of French troops, which is expected to start early next year, amounts to a "national catastrophe" for Chad, *Libération* noted. President Idriss Deby of Chad is expected to raise the issue of troop deployment when he meets M Chirac today in Cotonou, the capital of Benin.

The planned reduction in Africa-based troops is also unlikely to go down well within the French military, where the prospect of an exotic tour of duty under the African sun remains a recruitment inceniive.

WORLD SUMMARY

Gun scare at White House

Washington: A man was arrested yesterday after driving into a restricted area near the White House with a number of lethal weapons in his car (Tom Rhodes writes). William Glover, 63, was stopped after he followed a bus through a security checkpoint set up earlier this year to the east of the White House.

A .22 calibre rifle, ammunition, a knife and a machete were found in the car. Glover has been arrested and charged with possession of unregistered and prohibited weapons and ammunition, and with carrying dangerous arms. He is said to have been unaware that he was driving into a restricted part of Washington.

Press allowed in child star court

New York: A judge has ruled that the media can cover the court battle by the parents of Macaulay Culkin, the star of *Home Alone*, for custody of the 15-year-old actor and five of their other children. The case between Christopher Culkin and Patricia Brentrup was due to begin on Monday but has been delayed to allow time for appeals. *(AP)*

Outlook gloomy for Papandreou

Athens: Doctors said that Andreas Papandreou, the Greek Prime Minister who is on a life support system, would at best be away from his duties for a long time. Mr Papandreou has also been attended by Sir Magdi Yacoub, the British heart specialist. *(Reuter)*

Break dancing

Buenos Aires: Activities promoting tango music and dance could get a tax break after the Argentine Senate approved a resolution declaring the tango to be a national "cultural treasure". *(AFP)*

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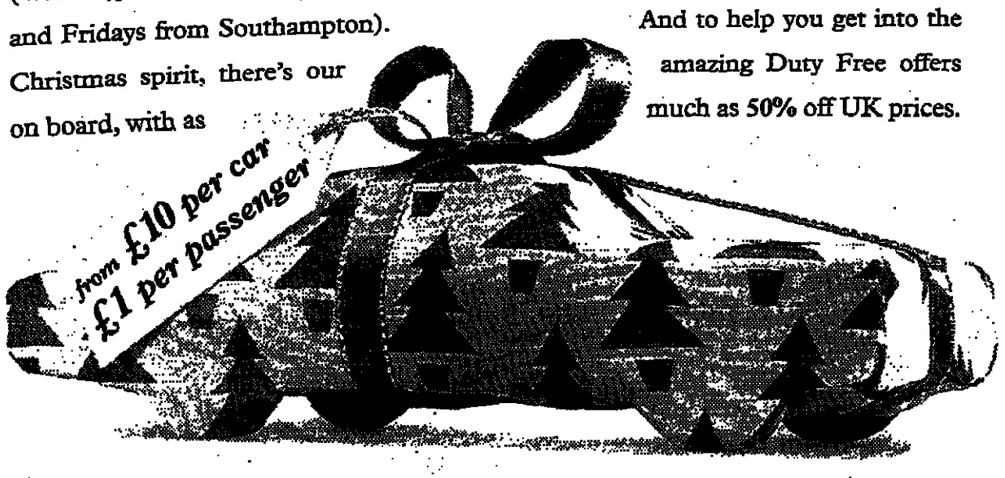
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Beer and sandwiches are thrown at moderate union leader as strikers scrap in the streets

Splits fuel Juppé's hopes

PARIS FILE
by BEN MACINTYRE



AS HEAD of France's largest union, Nicole Notat strode purposefully to the front of the column when protesters marched through Paris to kick off a crippling transport strike which has lasted more than a week.

Then the first ham sandwich landed, hurled by a member of her own union.

This was followed by a can of beer, missing Mme Notat's blonde bob by inches. In other circumstances the president of the CFDT (Confédération Française Démocratique du Travail), known variously as "the Tsarina" or "the Iron Lady" and reputedly the toughest woman in French politics, would probably have flung it back.

But as the cries of "Notat resign!" grew and fighting broke out between her supporters and union militants, Mme Notat was bundled into a car and whisked away by her bodyguards. She later claimed to have had a lunch engagement.

For Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, whose plan to overhaul the welfare system has prompted the worst French strikes for a decade, it was a bright point in an otherwise grim week. Not that M Juppé has anything against Mme Notat. Quite the reverse. When the Prime Minister unveiled his welfare reforms last month, Mme Notat said that, while she had some reservations, many of the proposals made sound economic sense.

That stance caused fury among fellow labour leaders and some members of her own, generally moderate union, but it has also pointed to fissures within the strike movement that represent M Juppe's best hope of riding out the storm.

Marc Blondel and Louis Viannet, heads of the the powerful Force Ouvrière and the Communist-led CGT, whose mutual loathing goes back many years, shook hands last week in a symbolic but less than convincing display of unity. M Blondel had the uncomfortable look of a man trying to perform a messy task in his best suit.

While Mme Notat's reasoned response to welfare reform has exposed her to a hail of criticism and sandwiches, she has become a pivotal figure in the dispute. Having sown the seeds of discord within the strike movement, the 47-year-old farmer's daughter from Lorraine is about to reap the benefits.

Mme Notat has demanded a meeting with the Prime Minister this weekend to lay out her objections to his plan, particularly over pension reform. If bowing to Mme Notat is the price of keeping the unions divided, M Juppé may decide it is worth paying — for the more projectiles that land on the Iron Lady, the happier he will feel.



Nicole Notat, who is said to be the toughest woman in French politics

Ill timing for electric car switch

JEAN TIBERI, the Mayor of Paris, unveiled plans this week to promote the use of electric cars by exempting such vehicles from tax and offering free parking.

Some 17 electric filling stations have been installed in the French capital and more than 100 others will soon be added.

However, the timing of the announcement, which is part of a well-meaning effort to lessen the city's appalling air pollution, could have been more opportune. The general strike has led to a lifting of parking restrictions anyway and, since most of the city's streets are blocked with traffic jams from dawn, the chances of getting from one filling station to another without running out of electricity are nil.

There are also power cuts on the way, thanks to a strike by electricity workers.

Food guide forces top chefs to eat their hats

THE acrid smell of burnt ego is wafting through some of France's most famous kitchens after the GaultMillau food guide concluded that more than half the country's top restaurants were overrated.

Last year the guide awarded its coveted four *toques* (the traditional white chef's hat) to 30 resturants. This year, in its 25th annual restaurant guide, GaultMillau cut down the number to 12.

The most devastating casualty was Maxim's, the fabled Paris eatery in the Place de la Concorde, which suddenly sank from four *toques* to no *toques*. The guide called Maxim's "the Titanic of Parisian restaurants".

French chefs are a notoriously *temperamental* breed at the best of times, but the *bombe surprise* landed by GaultMillau has left the offended restaurateurs boiling with rage.

If you happen to be in a French restaurant in the next few weeks and find the soufflé a little soggy, put it down to the tears shed by a scalded chef. Above all, do not complain. The chefs are more touchy than usual at the moment and have lots of sharp knives at their disposal.

Serb 'scorched earth' exodus feared

FROM STACY SULLIVAN IN SARAJEVO

FEARS that Serbs in Sarajevo will stage a mass exodus, leaving a trail of burning buildings in their wake, when authority over Serb-held suburbs reverts to the Bosnian Government are growing as Serbs here voice their hostility to the Dayton agreement.

Serbs in the five Serb-controlled suburbs of Sarajevo — Ilidza, Grbavica, Ilijas, Vogosca and Hadzici — which are to come under government control, say they were cheated by the pact and have been staging angry protests over the past week. The Bosnian Serb authorities say 150,000 Serbs live there, but the United Nations estimates the number at about 70,000.

General Jean-René Bachelet, the French commander of UN troops in Sarajevo, attacked the plan for not providing security guarantees for the Serb districts of the capital. "It seems unimaginable that the Serbs would accept the Bosnian police running their affairs," General Bachelet said. The American insistence on the withdrawal of the Bosnian Serb Army from the Serb suburbs would force "thousands of civilians to flee", he added.

"There is no doubt that before going the Serbs would carry out a scorched-earth policy. One would see on television screens the deplorable image of French soldiers directing traffic while houses burn."

General Bachelet said that the French were being forced to enforce a plan that they had never agreed to. "In Dayton, General de Gaulle would no doubt have slammed the door," he said.

The French have requested early deployment of a UN police force to help to prevent a Serb exodus from Sarajevo. However, the police force will only be empowered to monitor the local justice system and has no right to open fire, arrest or investigate.

Serb protesters have been chanting "We won't go!" and brandishing signs proclaiming: "We are Sarajevo". But when questioned about their plans once authority over the suburbs is transferred to the Bosnian Government, demonstrators in the Serb-held suburb of Ilidza said, almost unanimously, that they would leave.

"How can we live under their authority tomorrow when we have been fighting them for four years?" asked Sretanka, a Serb woman aged 44. "I will go with all the rest of my people, if Muslim authority is implemented."

"Dayton means 150,000 people have to go," said 23-year-old Nikola Rudana, a student in Ilidza.

Nato force ready to fly in

Brussels: Nato gave the go-ahead yesterday for 2,600 troops to take up position in Bosnia to prepare for the deployment of a 60,000-strong, alliance-led peace force. Two hundred soldiers could leave today from the headquarters of the Rapid Reaction Corps in Rheindalen, Germany.

In Dublin, President Clinton said that he planned to tell American troops headed for Bosnia their mission would not be risk-free. "Indeed, being in the military is not risk-free."

Senators abandon Basque inquiry

FROM REUTER IN MADRID

A PARLIAMENTARY investigation into charges that the ruling Socialists backed a "dirty war" against Basque guerrillas collapsed yesterday. A Senate committee voted not to question Felipe González, the Prime Minister, and other top officials.

Left with only police officers and middle-rank officials to question, the committee agreed to dissolve itself. A full Senate vote is needed to confirm the decision.

The inquiry had threatened to increase pressure on Señor González's Government, which is struggling to continue in office until March, when the Prime Minister has promised elections. The committee was set up on November 8 at the instigation of the Popular Party and United Left, over alleged government links to the Anti-Terrorist Liberation Groups (Gal) which murdered 27 alleged Basque separatists in the 1980s.

The result of yesterday's vote, made possible by the Catalan and Basque nationalist parties voting with the Socialists, was condemned by the United Left, which claimed bargains had been made behind the scenes.

"Those who want to try to bury the Gal won't get away with it," the United Left's parliamentary leader, Rosa Aguilar, said yesterday.

She accused Señor González and the Popular Party leader, José María Aznar, of conniving to cover up the Government's campaign to defeat Eta separatists.

If, as expected, the Senate confirms the decision to wind up the committee, Señor González, Narcis Serra, former Deputy Prime Minister, and José Barrionuevo, former Interior Minister, will no longer face a political tribunal. However, a judicial inquiry is continuing and Señor González may be called for questioning in that investigation.

In another development the former president of the northern Spanish region of Navarra and his former public works minister were arrested yesterday on suspicion of corruption, court sources in Madrid said.

Removal of screen sheds new light on Picasso masterpiece

FROM EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID

ONE OF Picasso's largest and most symbolic works, his huge painting, *Guernica*, has been given a new dimension. The bulletproof glass that protected but distorted the picture has been removed at the Reina Sofía Art Museum in Madrid.

"The painting now transmits sensations that we were incapable of perceiving before," said Carmen Alborch, the Minister of Culture, at a special showing.

"In the background there are drawings that you could not guess were there before the glass was removed. The colour is impressive."

José Guirao, director of the Reina Sofía, said that removing the glass gave back "the proportions, nuances and colours that were distorted before.

"Our task is to eliminate the barriers so that the public can view the works here with complete clarity."

The painting, measuring 23ft by 10ft 6in and which portrays the Nazi bombing of the Basque town of Guernica during the 1936-1939 Spanish Civil War, came to symbolise the outrages of European fascism. Picasso went into exile after the war as a mark of opposition to Francisco Franco's 1939-1975 dictatorship.

The work, kept in New York for 42 years, depicts the horrors of war in cartoon-like black and white figures. It was subjected to an ink attack at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, but Picasso, who died in exile in 1973, said the work should not return to Spain until full democracy had been restored.

The painting will have a permanent guard and be monitored by television cameras and other security devices, including a metallic band that will keep visitors 9ft away from the oil on canvas work.

"There is always the possibility that a madman will attack this or another work of art," Señor Guirao said.

Guernica was first displayed on June 12, 1937, in the pavilion of the Republic of Spain at the International Fair in Paris.

Picasso himself refused to explain his monumental work, but as it toured America the art critic Henry McBride said *Guernica* had been conceived as an instrument of propaganda, "but had finished by becoming something more important: a work of art".

The controversial work was finally returned to Spain in 1981 amid intense security. With the removal of the bullet-proof screen, *Guernica* can at last be viewed as Picasso had intended.



A detail from "Guernica", Picasso's anti-fascist painting

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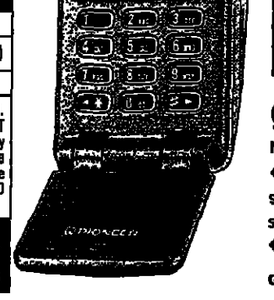
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■ OPINION

Did the luvvies really think that Kenneth Clarke would play fair in the Budget?



■ THEATRE

Freud, Dali and the rest are back in the limelight as *Hysteria* returns to the West End

THE TIMES ARTS



■ BASE NOTES

Former pop starlet Kim Wilde will head the London cast of the musical *Tommy*



■ BASE NOTES

... and Jessica Lange is lined up for Peter Hall's staging of *A Streetcar Named Desire*

Cut to the quick? Don't be, luvvie

IN THE ARTS



RICHARD MORRISON

If they ever compile a *Penguin Book of Fatuous Newspaper Headlines* (and it can only be a matter of time) a place of honour will surely be reserved for that indestructible classic, "Arts World in Uproar over Cuts", and its many variants. It certainly conjures up a wonderful image of luvvies frothing at the mouth across the country.

But where is that image filed in the mind of Joe Public? Somewhere between a British Rail excuse invoking leaves on the line and an Arsenal manager promising to provide entertaining football, I should imagine. We have heard it all before. We will hear it all again. And, in its quaint and fantastical way, it adds greatly to the gaiety of the nation. But we don't believe a word of it.

The newspapers garnered a rich harvest of luvvies-going-ballistic this week, after the announcement that £5 million is to be lopped off the Arts Council's grant. And in general the luvvies could not have shot themselves in the foot more effectively if their remarks had been scripted by Mr Terry Dicks, MP and Philistine-in-Chief to the Tory party.

The Almeida Theatre's Ian McDiarmid takes the Sir Peter Hall Prize for Ludicrous Overstatement with his "It could lead to the wholesale destruction of the arts in this country". Somebody had to say it; he got in first. Dan Crawford, artistic director of the King's Head, Islington, wins the Janet Street-Porter Cup for Preposterous Posturing with: "We were going to put on *Porgy and Bess* next year but that's off now." Oh dear, how will the residents of Islington struggle through 1996 without seeing grand opera staged in the back room of a pub?

The Trevor Nunn Award for Being a Bit Hazy about Figures goes to Catherine Lampert, director of the Whitechapel Art Gallery, for her delightful "The £5 million cut is more or less the whole amount given to the visual arts in England." Well, *more or less*. To be precise, it's less than a third of the subsidy given to the National Gallery alone. But never mind the arithmetic, just feel the outrage.

And the Lord Palumbo Memorial Trophy for Grandiose Self-Delusion is presented to the hilarious "Mik" Flood of the Institute of Contemporary Arts, a lavishly subsidised rest-home for poseurs which has made no discernible impact on British intellectual life for at least 20 years. He came up with a vintage quip: "We run some of the most interesting cultural debate programmes in Britain — these are now at risk." Oh Mik, the things you promise.

The arts world has cried wolf, rape and blue murder so many times in the past, and then miraculously staggered on, that no outsider can tell whether the distress flares are genuine this time round. I suspect that in some cases they are, although it is probably not the people making most noise who are most at risk.

I also suspect that the prevailing belief among arts people — that they are being vindictively penalised by the Treasury because the arts have received so much lottery money — is pretty close to the truth. Pledges were made about lottery money not being a substitute for existing government subsidy. They have been shamelessly broken — but then, politicians often renege on promises. They will continue to do so, probably until the arts receive no more in real terms from subsidy and lottery handouts combined than they did in palmier days from subsidy alone.

Then the lottery takings will start to tail off. That is when the real catastrophe will come. You think this week has been a crisis? You ain't seen nothing yet.

But didn't the Arts Council expect this political betrayal from the start? If it didn't, it must be composed of extraordinarily naive and trusting folk. And if it did, it should never have agreed that lottery money could only be used for "capital projects", leaving arts companies to wither into extinction for lack of day-to-day funds. Either way, its members have failed once again. They should be thinking about resignation.

After that pleasing sight, what next? In the short term it should not be beyond the wit of mankind to devise a subterfuge for channelling some lottery money into additional revenue funding for the companies that need it most desperately. But that should not distract from the main task, which (as I outlined last week) must be to use the windfall of the lottery to finance a huge programme of arts education: a nationwide campaign to transform the size, age and social background of arts participants and consumers once and for all. For while the arts constituency is relatively small, politicians will find it laughably easy to elbow it aside in the contemptuous way that we have seen this week.

The £5 million subsidy cut could have a beneficial result if it jolts arts leaders into instigating a drive towards accessibility and "outreach" (ghastly American word, but graphic). But whingeing about your cancelled pub-theatre *Porgy and Bess* is worse than useless. It confirms the suspicions of those who think that the arts world exists primarily to fuel the egos of those working within it. Which of course is not the case. People go into politics for that.

Veteran voice of authenticity

CONCERT

LSO/Solti
Barbican

THE 50th anniversary of Bartók's death is being marked with thoroughness by the London Symphony Orchestra and the Barbican, where the composer's compatriot Georg Solti is taking charge of three concerts.

Collectively, the programmes form a rich celebration of one of this century's most original musical minds, but Thursday's alone made an eloquent tribute: two key works, the Second Piano Concerto and *Duke Bluebeard's Castle*, received arresting, inspiring performances.

Few musicians are better qualified to play Bartók than Solti, who during his teens received piano lessons from the composer (strangely, Bartók never taught composition). And few communicate his music better than this octogenarian conductor, who still brings to his performances the abrasive, nervous energy so central to the idiom. Solti's impulsive style can be worrying in some repertory, but in Bartók he is the voice of authenticity.

In the concerto he was joined by another Hungarian, the pianist András Schiff. Together they gave a performance one is tempted to call "definitive": in the turbulent outer movements, not all of Schiff's notes were in place, but he played with musical energy, revelling in the spiky dance rhythms. Solti matched him by moulding short-winded melodies in the orchestra, and conjuring up the mysterious "night music" of the slow movement in sustained string playing. Rearrangement of the orchestra brought pungent clarity to the textures: winds and brass were placed in front, around the piano, with strings at the back. Schiff treated the concerto as a giant chamber work, reacting to individual orchestral lines with fresh spontaneity.

Duke Bluebeard's Castle is one of the most depressing of operas, and little of its power is lost in concert performance: there is not much dramatic action, and Bartók's ingenious orchestration "paints in" the scenery. The libretto by the poet and screenwriter Béla Balázs supplies the mind's eye with still more imagery. Nothing of this escaped Solti, whose achievement was to evoke the jittery detail while building tension though the opening of successive doors. He drew bristling playing from the LSO, itself in full command of Bartók's floods of colour. *The Fifth Door* might have sounded more climactic with a better organ.

Making allowances for Julia Varady's birth in Romania to Hungarian parents, this was an all-Hungarian cast. The soprano is always to be welcomed, but here she was less than ideal. In a part often taken by a mezzo, she lacked vocal heft in the middle of her voice to ride the lush orchestration, and her chest register has a hardness inappropriate to Judith's character. László Polgár was excellent here: his granite-like bass-baritone gave him impatient, imposing authority. Sandor Elés's gravely spoken prologue set the tone for a performance of disturbing power.

JOHN ALLISON

DONALD COOPER



From left: Tim Potter (Dali), Fred Pearson (Yahuda) and Henry Goodman (Freud) in Terry Johnson's *Hysteria*

Lightning strikes twice

THEATRE

Hysteria
Duke of York's

Terry Johnson's excellent play encompasses so many genres that even Polonius might have trouble shackling them together into one of his multi-hyphenated adjectives. Comical-farcical-tragical-historical-psychoanalytical just about covers it, but there is a touch of pastoral too in the glimpse of the lawn of 20 Maresfield Gardens, Hampstead. This was Freud's home during the last year of his life, and Johnson has seized on a number of true events — a trip to see *Rookery Nook*, a visit from Salvador Dalí — and spliced them together in a fantastical but dramatically logical pattern.

Two years after its award-winning run at the Royal Court, Johnson's play becomes the second in the series of Royal Court Classics to be revived at the Duke of York's. Henry Goodman and Tim Potter are back as Freud and Dali, Phyllida Lloyd directs again, and Mark Thompson recreates his astonishing, metamorphosing set.

This has to do a double duty, representing Freud's study, complete with famous couch, but later his hallucinating mind when accusing memories take visible shape and tip the Father of Psychoanalysis into an Aldwych farce as re-imagined by the Father of Surrealism.

Goodman achieves the remarkable feat of combining close physical resemblance to the ailing Freud, a persuasive impression of his manner with patients and the wild invention required of a hero of farce. Johnson's version of Freud imagines that the half-naked daughter of one of his first patients has come to reproach him, and must be concealed from his censorious physician (Fred Pearson).

The situation instantly opens itself to farce's familiar ingredients of lost undies, stunned interlopers and unwanted things emerging from the closet. But at the heart of the upheaval lurks the ambitious young Freud's rejection of childhood abuse as the cause of hysteria, and his decision to replace it with the seduction fantasy.

Aisling O'Sullivan's Jessica gives a striking performance as the passionate, artful, gasping young woman, swooping — as all the characters must do — between the gestures of pain and the grimaces of pandemonium. Likewise, Potter's dandyish Dali is both a credible portrait of the effervescent original and a springboard for farcical crisis.

The double or even treble level on which the play operates is what makes it so enjoyable; there is stimulus along with the slapstick and, in the surrealist apotheosis, where walls melt and the telephone turns into a lobster, Lloyd's direction and Thompson's set fashion the most exciting gift the theatre can offer: sheer amazement.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Wilde to be mum

BASE NOTES

THE pop star **Kim Wilde** is to make her West End debut next March in the new production of Pete Townshend's rock opera, *Tommy*. She will play Tommy's mother, the role taken by Ann-Margret in Ken Russell's film version. *Tommy*, a hit on Broadway, will open at the Shaftesbury Theatre on March 5, with previews from February 20.

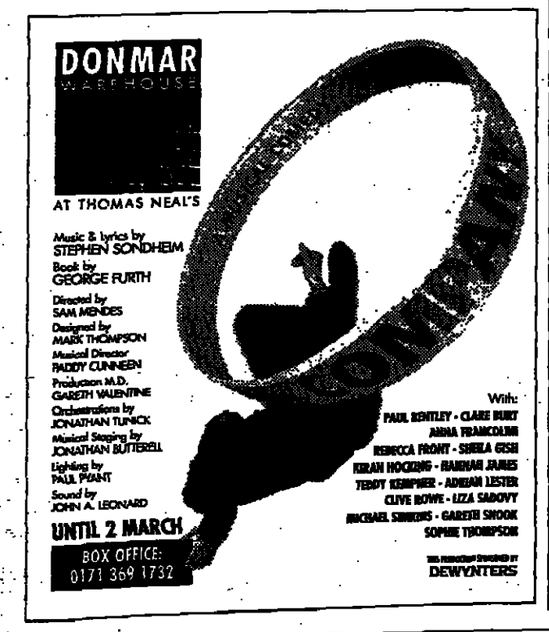
☐ FOLLOWING their revival of Noël Coward's *Present Laughter*, producer **Bill Kenwright** and actor **Tom Conti** return to the West End with Neil Simon's 1971 play, *Chapter Two*, which opens on January 29 at the Apollo. **David Gilmore** directs. Kenwright's production of *A Streetcar Named Desire*, to be directed by **Peter Hall** and intended for January, will now open in October, with **Jessica Lange** as Blanche du Bois.

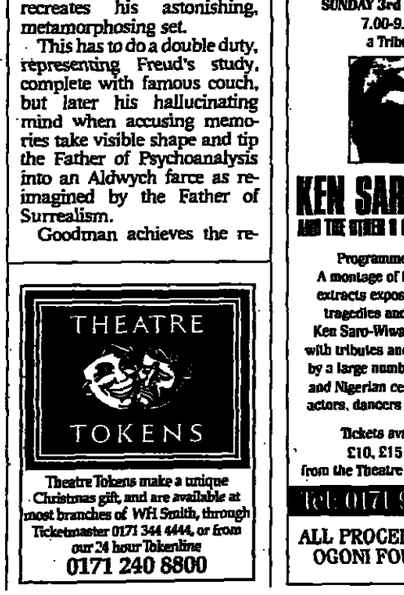
☐ WINNER of four Tony Awards last year, **Stephen Sondheim**'s new musical *Passion* is set for a West End opening in March. Starring **Michael Ball**, *Passion* is the third musical Sondheim has created with the writer and director **James Lapine**, following *Sunday in the Park with George* and *Into the Woods*. Previews begin at the Queen's Theatre on March 13.

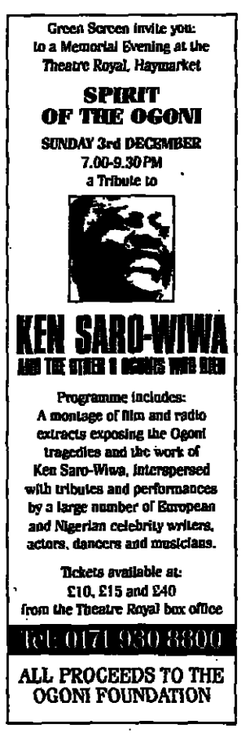
☐ THE hype is already building over what would have been rock'n'roll icon **Buddy Holly**'s 60th birthday, next September 7. A museum in his honour is to be opened in his home town of Lubbock, Texas; a new biography is on the way and, inevitably, a tribute album is to be released. The miracle of modern technology will enable the **Hollies** to sing on it with him, while **Nanci Griffith** performs with his backing band, the **Crickets**.

☐ ABSENT from our stages since *Sienna Red* closed on tour in 1991, the playwright **Stephen Poliakoff** looks set to be the dramatist of 1996, with major new plays at his erstwhile stamping grounds, the Hampstead and the National. In February he directs his own play *Sweet Panic* for the Hampstead. The play concerns a child psychologist who comes into conflict with the mother of one of her young clients. In August Poliakoff returns to the National for the first time since 1987 with *Blinded by the Sun*, to be directed by **Ron Daniels**.

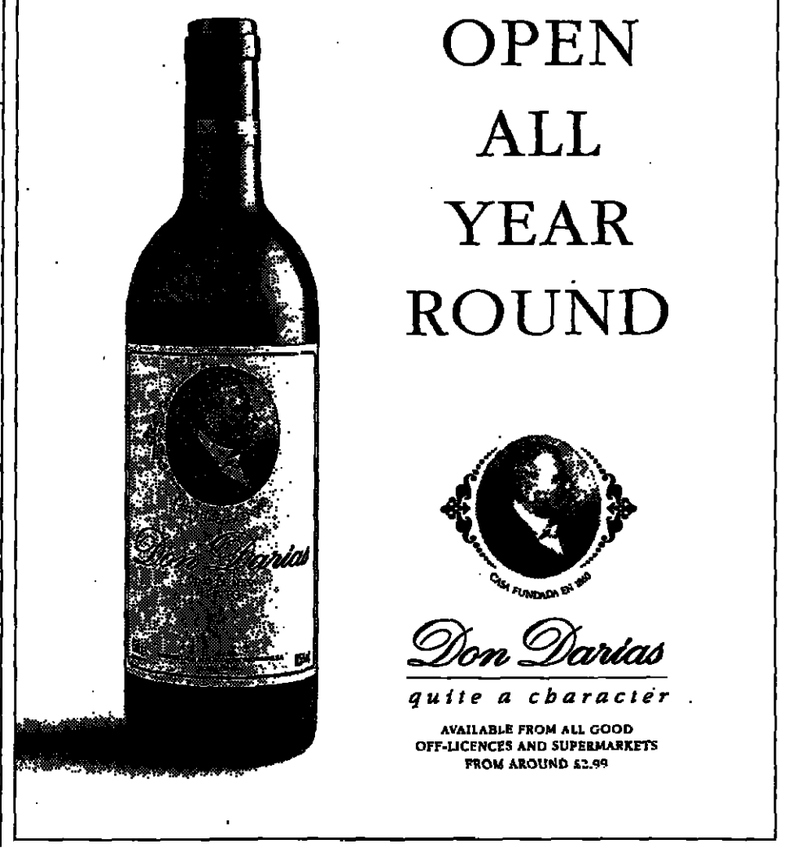
☐ A 27-year-old London-based writer, **Jacinta Stringer**, has won the inaugural Allied Domecq Playwright Award, worth £5,000. Stringer's *Vanzemaljac* (the Serbo-Croat word for alien) "deals with the notion of aliens, not necessarily in the sci-fi context, but in the context of our society as a whole," she says. Part of her prize is the opportunity to have *Vanzemaljac* produced and staged at London's Bush Theatre next year.

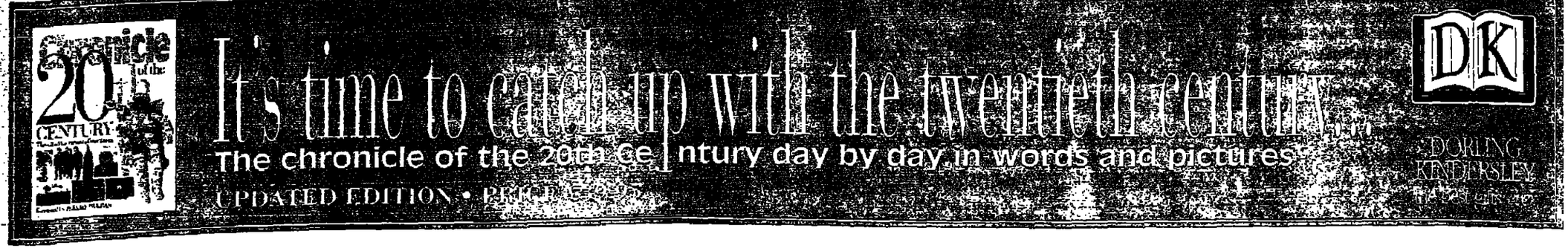












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CLASSICAL CONCERTS

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Part of The Daily Telegraph Christmas Festival 1995

SUNDAY 10 DECEMBER at 8 pm
THE DAILY TELEGRAPH CHRISTMAS GALA
with FRANK BOUGH and featuring ANTHONY WAY, star of "The Choir" treble
INTRODUCING A WONDERFUL FEAST OF SEASONAL & TRADITIONAL MUSIC
inc Sleigh Ride, C-maj Eve Polonaise, Panis Angelicus, Sleeping Beauty Suite, and CAROLS for all
ADELE PAXTON soprano, JULIAN GAVIN tenor
BRASS ENSEMBLE from the BAND OF THE WELSH GUARDS, LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA
DAVID ARNOLD conductor
£8.50, £13.50, £16.50, £18.50, £21.50

SUN 17 DEC at 3.30pm & SAT 23 DEC at 8.00pm
GLORY OF CHRISTMAS
GLORIOUS SEASONAL & TRADITIONAL MUSIC
BACH Magnificat & Christmas Oratorio (opening choruses); Air on a G string; HANDEL Largo; Worthy is the Lamb; For unto us a Child is born; *GOUNOD Ave Maria*; FRANCK Panis Angelicus; CLARKE Trumpet Suite; STANLEY Trumpet Voluntary; BERLIOZ Shepherd's Farewell; ADAMS The Holy City; O Holy Night & CAROLS for all
LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA
PHILIP SIMMS cond, THOMAS TALLIS CHOIR
SUN 17 DEC: JOHN GRAHAM HALL ten, WILLIAM HOUGHTON tpt, FINCHLEY CHILDREN'S MUSIC GRP
SAT 23 DEC: ANDREW MURGATROYD ten, CRISPIAN STEELE-PERKINS tpt, CAPITAL ARTS CHILDREN'S CHOIR
£8.50, £12.50, £17.50, £19.50, £22.50

TUESDAY 26 DECEMBER at 7.30 pm
BOXING DAY CONCERT
THE TRADITIONAL BOXING DAY CONCERT WITH THE PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA
MENDELSSOHN The Hebrides Ov. *Fingal's Cave*
MOZART Eine kleine Nachtmusik
RACHMANINOV Piano Concerto No.2
DVORAK Symphony No.9 *New World*
ANTHONY INGLIS cond, MARK BEBBINGTON piano
£9.50, £14.50, £19.50, £22.50, £25.50

THURSDAY 28 DECEMBER at 7.30 pm
MOZART IN COSTUME
THE ACCLAIMED MOZART FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA, IN 18TH CENTURY COSTUME WITH MOZART FAVOURITES TO BRING AN ELEGANT TOUCH OF SEASONAL CHEER
Marriage of Figaro Ov; Eine kleine Nachtmusik; Piano Conc No.21; Horn Conc No.4; Symph No.40
IAN WATSON cond JEFFREY BRYANT horn
£9.50, £14.50, £19.50, £22.50, £25.50

FRIDAY 29 DECEMBER at 3 pm
BALLET GALA
Featuring Principals from BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET
Prog inc. SWAN LAKE Opening Scene, Neapolitan Dance, White Swan, Pas de Deux*, Cygnets; THE NUTCRACKER Grand Pas de Deux*; COPPELIA Prelude & Magic Scene*; HOBSON'S CHOICE Clog Dance*; Lily of Laguna*; DON QUIXOTE Pas de Deux* (*danced)
ROYAL BALLET SINFONIA, PETER ERNST LASSEN cond
£9.50, £12.50, £16.50, £19.50, £22.50
(children under 16 - 1/2 price)

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
Box Office/CC 0171-960 4242
Part of The Daily Telegraph Christmas Festival 1995

THURSDAY 14 DECEMBER at 7.30 pm
GLORY OF CHRISTMAS
BACH Magnificat & Christmas Oratorio (opening choruses); HANDEL Largo, Worthy is the Lamb, For unto us a Child is born; GOUNOD Ave Maria; FRANCK Panis Angelicus; CLARKE Trumpet Suite; STANLEY Trumpet Voluntary; BERLIOZ Shepherd's Farewell; ADAMS The Holy City, O Holy Night; and CAROLS for all
BONAVENTURA BOTTONE ten, CRISPIAN STEELE-PERKINS tpt, LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA, PHILIP SIMMS cond, THOMAS TALLIS CHOIR
£6.50, £9.50, £13.50, £18.50, £21.00, £22.50

CHRISTMAS EVE at 2.30 pm
THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS
BACH Sheep may safely graze; Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring; HANDEL For unto us a Child is born; GOUNOD Ave Maria; FRANCK Panis Angelicus and many more with readings from the Brothers Grimm: The Little Matchstick Girl & The Birth of the Infant Jesus & CAROLS for all
LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA, PHILIP SIMMS cond
BONAVENTURA BOTTONE ten, CRISPIAN STEELE-PERKINS tpt
MICHAEL FENTON-STEVENS reader
THOMAS TALLIS CHOIR, TRINITY BOYS CHOIR
£6.50, £9.50, £13.50, £18.50, £21.00, £22.50

The Daily Telegraph
Christmas Festival 1995
Royal Festival Hall
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SUNDAY 31 DECEMBER at 3.15 & 7.30pm
JOHANN STRAUSS GALA
Johann Strauss Orchestra directed from the Violin by John Bradbury
Johann Strauss Dancers in the beautiful costumes of the period
- Choreographer Geraldine Stephenson Eirian Davies soprano
Celebrate the New Year in true Viennese style with the Johann Strauss Gala's 21st year of recreating the romance and elegance of 19th century Vienna.



A superb programme of music and dance by the Strauss Family including, Blue Danube Waltz, Radetzky March, Tritsch Tratsch Polka, Perpetuum Mobile, Kaiser Waltz, Music of the Spheres, Die Fledermaus excerpts, Champagne Polka, Pizzicato Polka, Annen Polka, Cuckoo Polka, Schnellpolka, Wiener Blut Overture, L'Inconnue Polka, Memories of Covent Garden Waltz, Kaiserwalzer Waltz, Die Libelle and Thunder and Lightning Polka.

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Barbican Centre

Sat 2 Dec 7.30pm & Sun 3 Dec 3.00pm
A Brubeck Birthday Bash
London Symphony Orchestra Dave Brubeck *piano*
Darius Brubeck *piano* Chris Brubeck *bass & bass trombone*
Matthew Brubeck *cello* Dan Brubeck *drums* Bobby Militello *alto sax & flute* Russell Gloyd *conductor*
Prog inc. Blue Rondo a la Turk, Three to Get Ready, and the classic Take Five £8 - £30

Sun 3 Dec 7.30pm
Solti Celebrates Bartók Chamber Music
Sir Georg Solti *conductor*, András Schiff, Dénes Várjon, Ian Brown *pianos* György Pauk *violin* Andrew Marriner *clarinet* Evelyn Glennie, David Corkhill *percussion*
The Keller Quartet Prog. Contrasts for violin, clarinet & piano; String Quartet No 6; Sonata for Two Pianos and Percussion.
£8 - £18 Sponsored by Mrs Jackie Rosenfeld OBE.
Part of the Barbican Celebrity Recitals Series

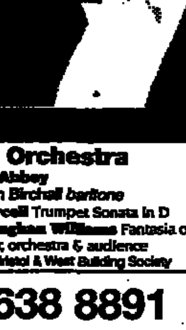
Wed 6 Dec 7.30pm
Handel's Messiah
Goldsmiths Choral Union
English Chamber Orchestra
Brian Wright *conductor* Ruth Holton *soprano*
Catherine Denley *mezzo-soprano*
Richard Edgar-Wilson *tenor* Jozik Koc *bass*
£6.50, £10.50, £13, £16.50, £19

Sat 9 Dec 8.00pm
English Chamber Orchestra
ECO
CHRISTOPH ESCHENBACH conductor/piano
MOZART Piano Concerto No 23 in A, K488
STRAVINSKY Pulcinella Suite
MOZART Symphony No 38 in D, *Prague*
£6, £11, £16, £19.50
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Sun 10 Dec 3.00pm
Britten
A Midsummer Night's Dream
London Symphony Orchestra
Sir Colin Davis
Brian Asawa, Elizabeth Futral, Brian Bannatyne-Scott, Hilary Summers, John Mark Ainsley, Paul Whelan, Ruby Philogene, Janice Watson, Robert Lloyd, Gwynne Howell, Ian Bostridge, Stephen Richardson, Neal Davies, Mark Tucker, Carl Ferguson

Mon 11 Dec 7.30pm
Chamber Orchestra of Europe
Herbert Blomstedt *conductor*
Anne Sofie von Otter *mezzo-soprano*
HAYDN Symphony No 67
GLUCK 3 arias from Orfeo
BRAHMS Symphony No 4
£7, £11, £13.50, £18.50, £25
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Thu 14 Dec 7.15pm
CITY OF BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
SIR SIMON RATTLE conductor
THOMAS HAMPSON baritone
PETER SEIFFERT tenor
VAUGHAN WILLIAMS Fantasia on a theme by Thomas Tallis
JUDITH WEIR Forest
MAHLER Das Lied von der Erde



Mon 18 Dec 7.30
English Chamber Orchestra
The Choir of Westminster Abbey
Martin Neary *conductor* Simon Birchall *baritone*
Andrew Crowley *trumpet* Purcell Trumpet Sonata in D
Britten Ceremony of Carols Vaughan Williams Fantasia on Christmas Carols, Carols for choir, orchestra & audience
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The Bach Choir's traditional Christmas carols concerts inc. family favourites for audience & choir. Light-hearted & seasonal contributions from the Kneller Hall Fanfare Trumpeters & the Wallace Collection & 1st perfs of winning carols in The Bach Choir's young composers competition.
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THE WALLACE COLLECTION, JANE WATTS organ
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Sponsored by UNILEVER

MONDAY 18 DECEMBER at 7.30 pm
CHRISTMAS GALA with the PHILHARMONIA
PHILHARMONIA CHORUS
CHOIR OF WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL
DAVID HILL cond, STEPHEN VARCOE baritone
HANDEL Zadok The Priest; VAUGHAN WILLIAMS Fantasia on Christmas Carols; ALBINONI Adagio; HANDEL Messiah - Xmas Sequence; TCHAIKOVSKY The Nutcracker, Ov; DARKE In The Bleak Midwinter, CAROLS & CHRISTMAS *SONGS for Choir & CAROLS for all*
£7.50, £11.50, £16.50, £21.50, £22.50, £25.50

THURSDAY 21 DECEMBER at 7.30 pm
CHRISTMAS OPERA GALA
A SPECIAL PRE-CHRISTMAS OPERA GALA FEATURING 4 DISTINGUISHED SOLOISTS IN POPULAR EXCPTS FROM THE GREAT OPERAS
inc. Faust, Carmen, Pearlfishers, La Traviata, Rigoletto, Aida, Barber of Seville, La Bohème, Madam Butterfly, Turandot & Die Fledermaus with *Special Surprises*
A THANE, C POWELL, B BOTTONE, W DAZELEY, LONDON CHORAL SOC, FANFARE TRUMPETERS OF THE BAND OF THE WELSH GUARDS, BBC CONCERT ORCH, JAMES LOCKHART cond
£7.50, £11.50, £16.50, £21.50, £22.50, £25.50

SATURDAY 23 DECEMBER at 7.30 pm
HANDEL'S MESSIAH
THE PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA, BRIAN WRIGHT conductor, CATRIN WYN-DAVIES, REBECCA DE PONT DAVIES, ADRIAN THOMPSON, PETER SIDHOM
GOLDSMITH'S CHORAL UNION
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CHRISTMAS EVE at 7 pm
GLORY OF CHRISTMAS
HANDEL For unto us a Child is born
BACH Sheep may safely graze; Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring; STANLEY Trumpet Voluntary; FRANCK Panis Angelicus; ADAM The Holy City and many more... readings from Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol & The Birth of the Infant Jesus, CAROLS for all
LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA, PHILIP SIMMS cond, *BONAVENTURA BOTTONE* ten, *CRISPIAN STEELE-PERKINS* trpt, MICHAEL FENTON-STEVENS reader
THOMAS TALLIS CHOIR, TRINITY BOYS CHOIR
£7.50, £9.50, £12.50, £17.00, £19.00, £21.00

Royal Festival Hall sbc

Royal Festival Hall RFH 1 Tel 0171 960 4208 10am - 9pm

Sat 2 Dec 7.30 Scheherazade The Philharmonia Orchestra. Russian Series. G Rozhdestvensky (cond) V Spivakov (vln). Mussorgsky/Ravel: Pictures from an Exhibition; Tchaikovsky: Violin Concerto; Balakirev: Islamey. £30 - £5

Sun 3 Dec 7.30 The London Philharmonic Resident at the RFH. M Jansons (cond) M Maisky (cello) M Sinclair (narr). The London Phil Choir. Works by Schoenberg, Schumann, Brahms. RFH1 6.15pm: talk, free with conc tkt -£30 - £5

Tue 5 Dec 8.00 Kronos Quartet play John Adams & Tan Dun. Two UK premieres: a string quartet of dances by John Adams, and 'Ghost Opera' by Tan Dun, a staged performance by Kronos & pipa player Wu Man. £17.50 - £10

Wed 6 Dec 7.30 The London Philharmonic Resident at the RFH. Franz Welser-Möst (cond) Peter Donohoe (pno). Works by Mozart, Bartók, R. Strauss. RFH1 6.15pm: talk, free with concert ticket. £30 - £5

Thu 7 Dec 7.30 Scheherazade The Philharmonia Orchestra. Russian Series. Y Simonov (cond) V Ovchinikov (pno). Works by Rimsky-Korsakov, Tchaikovsky, Borodin. RFH1 6.15pm: talk, free with concert ticket. £30 - £5

8 Dec 15 Dec 7.30 The London Philharmonic Resident at the RFH. Classics for Pleasure Series. Alexander Lazarev (cond) Nikolai Demidenko (pno). Works by Rimsky-Korsakov, Prokofiev, Tchaikovsky (NB: Fri 15 Dec same prog) £12. £5

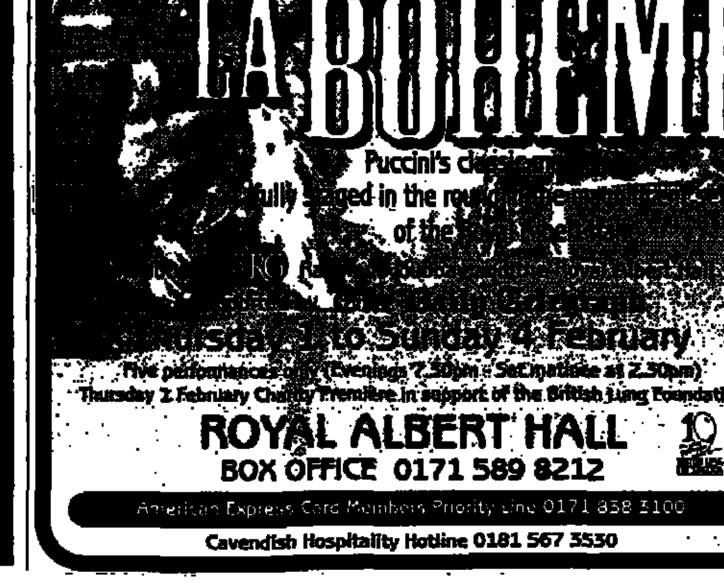
Queen Elizabeth Hall QEH 2 Tel 0171 960 4208 10am - 9pm

Sun 3 Dec 7.45 Akshaya Dance Theatre The Secret of Life directed by Unnikrishnan & Pushkala Gopal. A colourful, dramatic and vibrant production, based on the Indian myth Kacha Devayani. £12, £10, £8

Wed 6 Dec 7.45 Richard Goode Complete Beethoven Piano Sonatas - Series 3. Beethoven: Piano Sonata in G, Op.49 No.2; in F, Op.54; in G, Op.31 No.1; in B flat, Op.106 (Hammerklavier). Other concert in series 16 Dec. £17.50 - £8

Fri 8 Dec 7.45 A Wild Night with Gavin Friday and Misty "In a sad and beautiful world, Gavin Friday is the perfect soundtrack." Melody Maker £12.50

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Barbican Centre
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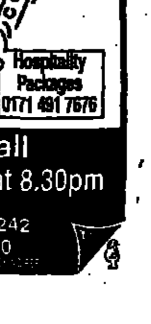
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Sun 3 Dec 4.00pm NB: time	YGGDRASIL QUARTET OF ABERDEEN Judith Weir: String Quartet (1990) (London première) Beethoven: Quartet in E minor Op.59 No.2 *Razumovsky* Stenhammar: Quartet Op.25 *No.5 Serenade* £14, £12, £9, £6 Sponsored by Embassy of Sweden and supported by IKEA
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Wed 6 Dec 8.00pm NB: time	Chamber Music Season. RAPHAEL OLEG violin BARRY DOUGLAS piano. Poulenc: Violin Sonata (1942-3) Elgar: Sonata in E minor Op.82; Brahms: Sonata in A Op.100 Beethoven: Sonata in E flat Op.12 No.3 £14, £12, £9, £6 Wigmore Hall/Terry Harrison Artists Mgt
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Sat 9 Dec 5.00pm NB: time	Song Recital Series. EMMA KIRKBY soprano LARS ULRIK MORTENSEN harpsichord Handel: Dolce mio ben; Babell: Lascia ch'io pianga; Greene: Six Sonnets from Spenser's *Amoretti*; Scarlatti: Vivo K208; Handel: Nice, che fa? All seats £7 *Voices at Wigmore Hall/BBC Radio 3*
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■ TELEVISION

Giant of Beverly Hills: Aaron Spelling tops 3,000 TV episodes... and still counting



■ RECORDS

Pavarotti shows rare clips of great tenors in a new video: reviewed in Weekend, page 8

THE TIMES
ARTS



■ ON MONDAY

What shall we do with Somerset House? One of London's great buildings needs a new role



■ NEXT WEEK

Reviews of the fabulous Vermeer show in Washington DC, and Paris's latest shocker

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament:

MARCEL McCALLA



Profession: Performer

Age: 14

Where can he be seen? At the London Palladium until December 18, playing the sprightliest Artful Dodger imaginable in the Cameron Mackintosh-Sam Mendes revival of *Oliver!*

What are his gifts? Energy and enthusiasm. He is also a mean hoofer. Small, bright-eyed and possessed of a huge stage presence. Does he look at the audience? "Sometimes people catch my eye. I like it when they're singing the songs and having a good time."

How did he get the part? McCalla joined the show in July as one of Fagin's gang, graduating to the Dodger two months later. As a child, he recalls: "I used to grab my gran and brother and dance around, but I thought: 'Oh, this is just a muckaround.' I didn't know it would lead to anything like this. I'm amazed."

How does he get on with his colleagues? Very well, even though Leonard Kirby, who was playing Charley Bates, has left the cast, as has the production's first Nancy, Sally Dexter. "I was really sad because Charley is like my friend, and Sally's gone and I really used to like her." The upside: Jim Dale, the show's new Fagin who, McCalla's mother says, has called it "a pleasure" to work with her son. And composer Lionel Bart, whom McCalla finds "cuddly".

What about school? McCalla is in his GCSE year at Brentside High School in Hanwell, a bus journey away from the west London home he shares with his mother and three siblings (his father, a salesman, died when McCalla was four). "I really do want to be an actor, but I won't let my schoolwork fail," he says. "I've got to stick it out at school because maybe some actors are not in work all the time so they need something to fall back on." Favourite subjects? English, drama and art.

What's next? Television commercials, he hopes, and cinema. "I want desperately to do a film. I like films where everyone is young. I like *Bugsy Malone*; I think that's really good." And as for *Oliver!*? "I don't want to leave at all; I want to stay forever. I really hope I'll stay short and my voice won't break."

MATT WOLF

A dynasty of dandy candy



Despite his success, the Emmy-winning Aaron Spelling has nightmares that it is all a fantasy

Aaron Spelling has produced his 3,000th television episode, writes Quentin Letts

America's most prolific film producer has just passed an astonishing figure. Aaron Spelling, the self-proclaimed vendor of "mind candy", has said "cut!" on his 3,000th television episode.

If you sat down to watch, without interruption, every film Spelling has made, it would be 125 days before you emerged from the viewing suite. Afterwards, your image of the world might be sugary, but there are worse conditions.

Spelling's creations have ranged from *Charlie's Angels* to *Dynasty*, *The Love Boat* and *Starsky and Hutch*. His current hits, *Melrose Place* and *Beverly Hills 90210*, maintain the Spelling doctrines of fast action, slim storylines and good-looking stars. No wells of human misery are plumbed here. It is American life talcum-powdered and glamorised.

Spelling's success in diverting his audiences has made him the quintessential Hollywood figure. Last week, in a rare accolade, the showbusiness magazine *Variety* devoted more than 100 pages to his life story. Tributes came from rivals, friends, family and the major networks.

One of the *Variety* ads was paid for by his accountant ("Thanks for letting me count your beans — Matthew Houbrick"), and with good reason. For Spelling, who arrived in Hollywood as a penniless bit-part actor in 1953, is now valued at $235 million — and rising. His 123-room house in Beverly Hills is on any tourist coach's itinerary. Spelling often goes out to talk to his visiting fans. "They built that house," he explains. "That is why I say hello."

For 40 years he has shown how to tap into — or perhaps stall — the minds of a global television audience. The critics have carped, as they often do with populists. Spelling feels that they miss the point. With *Charlie's Angels*, for instance, he and his associates thought it was "great camp. How can you believe there were three young private detectives making $500 a week, wearing $10,000 Nolan Miller wardrobes and working for a man who was a voice on the telephone?"

Sometimes the lack of critical praise wounded him. "I got tired of the critics saying that I was the master of schlock," he admits. "It didn't bother me until my kids began growing up and reading it."

Spelling was born in 1928 in Texas, the son of an immigrant tailor. His Dallas background gave him a bluff card to play when he reached Hollywood in the early Fifties: they presumed he must know all about the Wild West. In those days he lived in a $3-a-night hotel, pestering movie studios for work and selling his decrepit Plymouth car for $150 so that he could eat. The Dallas accent got him a part in a small television western, which in turn landed him an audition for *Gunsmoke*, a successful television series.

Afterwards he was standing at the bus stop outside the studio when a man approached and asked how the reading had gone. "Dunno," said Spelling. "But I hope I'll get the part." The man replied: "Oh, you'll get it. I wrote it for you." It was Sam Peckinpah.

Spelling then met Alan Ladd who, hearing that he was a western expert, gave him a script to read. Spelling rewrote it and promptly found himself hired as Ladd's producer. "Compelling Spelling", as they soon started to call him, did not look back.

In the course of his 3,000 shows he has exercised considerable powers of patronage. In the days of *Charlie's Angels*, a young studio executive called Michael Eisner tried to make Spelling drop Jaclyn Smith, then an unknown actress. Spelling refused. He found Julia Roberts in *Satisfaction* (1988), punted Heather Locklear to supermarket-aisle stardom with *Dynasty*, *T.J. Hooker* and *Melrose Place*, and saved a handsome but dwindling young actor, Brian Austin Green, from a life in B movies by casting him in *90210*.

Luke Perry, another *90210* star, describes entering Spelling's office — so big it has its own waiter — to find "the longest casting couch in the world". Other Spelling "babes", such as Ted Lange, have gone on to successful directing careers, while Fred Gandy (*The Love Boat*) made it to the House of Representatives.

Bernie Kopell, a colleague of Gandy on *The Love Boat*, has only to look out of his window to realise that Spelling changed his life. "I see my tennis court and I say 'Yes, Aaron Spelling paid for that'," Emma Samms of *Dynasty* says that, thanks to Spelling, she has yet to visit a country where she has not been recognised.

Hart to Hart, *Aloha Paradise*, *The Colbys*, *Chopper One*, *Matt Houston* — the list is endless. Few Spelling shows are remembered for their dialogue, cinematography or spiritual lifts, but they have, over the years, formed a vital part of American life. The hairstyles, costumes, folksy characters and corny lines have provided reference points for each decade. *Charlie's Angels* and *Dynasty* are cultural anchors for the Seventies and Eighties.

Meanwhile, the man who made them is planning further television episodes, working weekends to turn around scripts on his manual typewriter. He once spoke of his recurring nightmare: that his success had been a fantasy and that he is in fact still back on Browder Street, Dallas, short of cash and unknown. With show number 3,000 in the can, perhaps he can start to relax.

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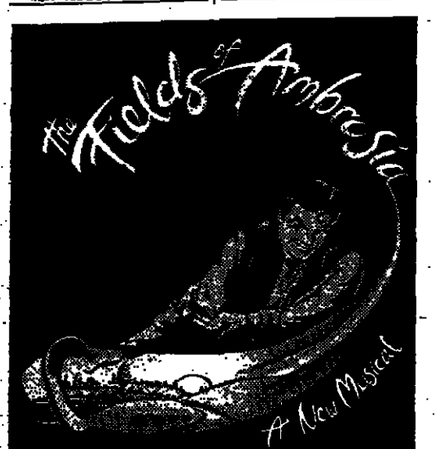
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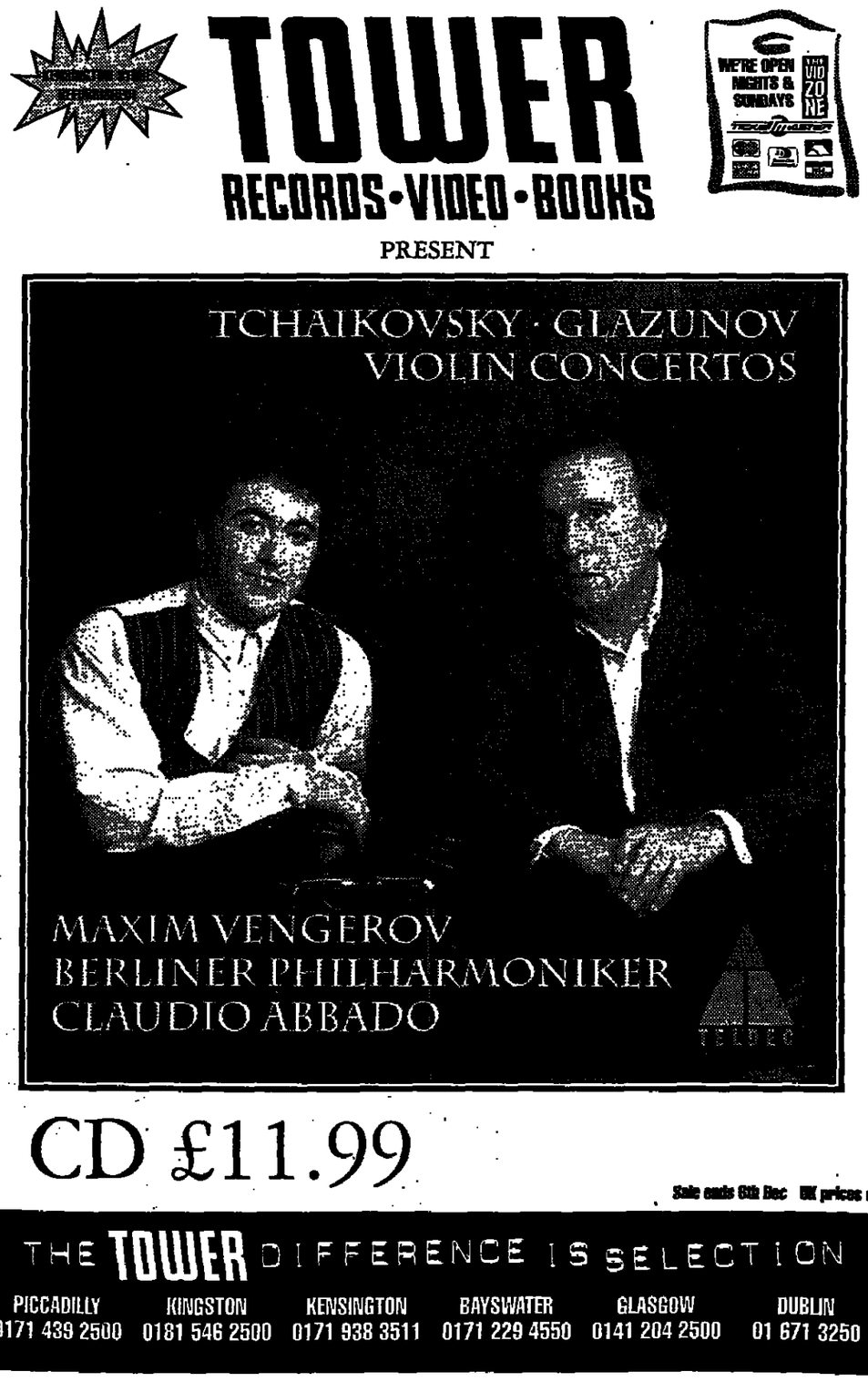
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Universities should follow soccer's lead

Max Beloff believes it is time to form an academic premier league

What our universities most lack today is not money, as they believe, but leadership. They must follow the example of an institution *really* taken seriously by the British — association football. A "premier league" of the best universities should be set up to further the advancement of research coupled with individual teaching of students. The league would have the prestige to negotiate with government as the nation's voice for science and scholarship.

Occasionally, an eminent scientist — academics in the humanities are more chary of challenging the official line — points out that the system is going wrong. But for the most part the universities allow major inroads to be made upon their own capacity to fulfil their allotted role without any collective protest. The most glaring recent example was the transfer of the Research Councils to the Department of Trade and Industry.

Nor do the demands the universities make on government and Parliament deal with the real needs of students and teachers. They concentrate on resources. The main submission to the last public expenditure survey from the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals (CVCP) was that the check on the growth in higher education should be abandoned and the acceleration of recent years resumed. Yet, on the CVCP's own showing, the recent growth has not yet been satisfactorily absorbed.

> 'Scholars and scientists are having to spend more and more of their time filling in forms'

While Britain used to pride itself on the high proportion of students completing their courses — and it is the number of graduates not of students that counts — we now have a serious drop-out problem. Sometimes the reasons are financial, sometimes it is because the students are ill-prepared for university study. For many students the need to supplement grants and loans means they take on part-time work to an extent which interferes with their studies. The new student loan proposals will not help.

And when one looks at the scale of their growth in recent years all this is hardly surprising. Between 1984-85 and 1993-94 the number of full-time students rose 77 per cent and of part-time students 67 per cent. Yet the CVCP demands an increase in the participation rate for the relevant age group from 30.6 per cent to 40 per cent by the year 2000. Yet, since no government is going to fund such an expansion, it can only mean a further diminution in student support and academic salaries, and the undermanning of study in the shape of laboratories and libraries.

Too little has been done to see standards do not fall. The attacks by Labour and the self-styled "National Commission for Education" on A levels have not been robustly condemned by the CVCP.

Why does the CVCP point down a road which it knows the country will not travel? The answer lies in the growth in the number of institutions. We now have almost 100 institutions entitled to call themselves universities. In addition there are some 50 other bodies with degree-granting powers. All demand a share of the decreasing cake — all can only be satisfied by forms of funding which obliterate the distinctions between them.

We have passed from an elitist system of higher education to a mass system without any of the safeguards that exist in the United States, where such a shift first took place. When government looks at schools it claims to be interested in variety; when it comes to higher education it produces a system which is based on uniformity. And the CVCP goes along with it.

Of course variety persists despite the operations of the funding councils and other instruments of central control. Some universities continue to demand high standards for entry — others are less choosy. Some offer courses in the standard sciences and humanities, and only to degree level: others are prepared to obliterate the differences between fields of study, and between degrees and lesser qualifications. In principle, the spread of opportunities for study at any level is welcome provided that not too much is sacrificed. Why should there not be differences of mission between institutions? Brighton University and the University of Sussex do good work but they are not very similar. Buckingham University has a very different role from Luton University.

But there is a price. It is sometimes thought that the older universities are worried about the newcomers only on financial grounds — more for them, less for us. Not so.

A few decades ago, no one thought of monitoring the quality of what universities provided. The system of external examiners was a sufficient guarantee of standards. Because of lack of trust in the new institutions, a whole apparatus of control has been forced on all institutions alike.

What this means is endless bureaucratisation, so scholars and scientists spend more and more time filling in forms. The time spent on all this nonsense must come from somewhere. It cannot decently be spared from teaching so it comes at the expense of research.

Any advanced economy needs a high output of those with the relevant skills. There may be many ways in which this demand can be met, though it is hard to see how the amalgamation of the Departments of Employment and Education has helped. But advanced economies and societies needs two other things from their universities, or at least some of them — a process for the education of an elite necessary to run the country, and first-class research which is not only fundamental to industry but confers on the country an vital reservoir of authority and influence.

An important task of the proposed premier league would be to assist its members to find new sources of funding to free themselves from the constraints of the funding councils as the great American universities have done.

They must say farewell to the CVCP, and enable it to concentrate on institutions which do require a measure of external assistance. Some ten universities suggest themselves as the initial members of a premier league; but as other universities prove their worth they must also be able to seek admission. This will all be different and painful; but is there any other way?

Lord Beloff is a former Principal of the University of Buckingham

Alan Coren



Sometimes even policemen need protection

Forgive me, young, this morning's folderol cannot be fully appreciated by anyone under 50. You have to know what you were doing on the night PC George Dixon was shot.

Those who do know were of course all doing the same thing. They were sitting in a 1950 cinema, because that was where PC George Dixon got it. Sure, he has been continuing to get it on a spasmodic basis every time *The Blue Lamp* reappears on television, and it is therefore on the cards that many people under 50 have seen him getting it, but that is not the same thing at all, they will not remember what they were doing when he got it for the tenth time, since it was the first time that was the unforgettable one. This was not only because, 45 years ago, the sacrosanctity of the unarmed uniform was a bit more sacred than it is today, but also because its contents on this occasion were Jack Warner. In 1950, Jack Warner was the nation's most lovable man. It was inconceivable that Jack Warner would get it. So when PC George Jack Dixon Warner slowly proceeded in the direction of Dirk Bogarde's Webley, 1950 audiences knew the Webley would not go bang: Dirk would realise who was doing the proceeding, chuck in the towel, and offer his ear for the clip which was standard Met issue in 1950. Not that he would receive even that, for this was Jack Warner. Jack Warner did not clip.

But 1950 audiences were wrong. To our indescribable horror, after five dreadful seconds of slow proceeding, the Webley did go bang, and PC George Dixon, helmet stoutly but pitiably undislodged, sank gently to his lovable knees, and expired. It was the most terrible sight anyone in Britain had ever seen — so unacceptably terrible, indeed, that, four years later, George Dixon's corpse was resurrected by the BBC at Dock Green, where it continued to plod lovably for 21 more years (with no explanation ever being offered as to why there wasn't a big hole in the front of its uniform) until being allowed to retire, peacefully, in 1976.

But we did not know, on that grim 1950 night, that PC Dixon would rise from the dead. Shaken, bereft, we *shuffled from our* Odeons, with only one question whizzing about inside our heads: had we been there, what would we have done in those five dreadful seconds to *stop Dirk in his tracks* (for this, remember, was in the days before it was a punishable offence to cause distress to a criminal going about his business)? I do not know how *adults* answered, I know only that for days thereafter playgrounds buzzed with heroically interventionist fantasies: grab his gun, kick his shins, poke your pencil in *his eye, do that ju-jitsu* stuff, swing your satchel at his head, chuck a fizer bottle at his groin, open out that horses-hooves thing on your jack-knife . . .

Was the right course of *action*, then, ever resolved? Then, not; for me at least. It was not resolved for me until last Monday evening, 45 years on, in the lavatory at Heathrow airport. Arriving from France off one of those flights on which cabin apologies for the long delays are expressed in free drinks, I hit the arrivals area at a *forgivable clip, tacked* for the gents', and was soon gratefully sorting myself out. Duly sorted, I moved to the washbasins like a good boy, whereupon a uniformed constable took my former place at the urinal. And it was as I turned to go that I saw that a Japanese, I assumed tourist, had taken out his camera and was pointing it at the widdling copper. Incensed at what was clearly about to become a nasty joke at this ailing country's international expense, I did not hesitate: without a second thought, and much in the manner of Lytton Strachey finding his sister about to be pounced upon by a priapic Hun, I interposed my body between the uniform and the snapper, who, trigger-finger committed, could not stay himself from shooting.

The flash flashed. The copper glanced up, and glanced back down again. The tourist saw my wagging finger, shrugged and left. I went out, too, to hail a cab for Cricklewood, feeling good: one day soon, a Tokyo chemist will find this strange snapshot of an angry man gesticulating in a public lavatory. He will not realise he is looking at a hero. With any luck, he may even call the police.

Dear Bill, you owe me one

For Bill Clinton to pretend that the 15 months of peace in Ulster has anything to do with him is ludicrous

From the Prime Minister

Dear Mr President.
So did it work? I eagerly await news of the opinion polls on your European visit. We much enjoyed having you both with us.

Now you owe me one. As you know there is great worry here at the terrible communal strife in Los Angeles and other American inner cities. The gangland slaughter is, I gather, now claiming many more deaths per head than the little trouble in Northern Ireland that recently captured your attention. Britons were upset to watch night after night on television the racial conflict shown up in the Rodney King and O.J. Simpson cases. We are naturally concerned that a superpower should contain such parodies of Third World killing fields.

I have consulted with my European colleagues on this matter. We feel that the root of the trouble lies in the lack of movement on urban reform to bring the various ethnic groups together. The large arsenals of weapons now in the hands of gang leaders, white and black, are of deep concern to us. Some have been used against our tourists visiting your country. My suggestion is that leaders of goodwill throughout Europe should express their thanks for your bringing peace (as your media puts it) to Bosnia and Ulster by calling on all sides in your urban conflict to seek a settlement leading to a lasting peace. We propose that talks about talks start right away.

I am aware that this "peace process" requires all sides to lay down their weapons (we might call it decommissioning). I know you have trouble with your gun lobby over this, so I propose to set up an international body to examine the matter and tell you how best to proceed. I am happy to chair this body alongside two senior parliamentarians. It might work on a parallel "twin track" to the peace process itself. You will agree that we must all give peace a chance in America's inner cities.

The Princess of Wales, whose therapist recently appointed her "queen of hearts to the world", is available to go on a mission of reconciliation to Watts. She will get huge headlines and I can send a British tree for her to plant. The Queen would be happy to welcome both Mr King and Mr O.J. Simpson to Buckingham Palace as a gesture of peace. I know you will not object if I offer your Reverend Farrakhan a visa and lunch at Downing Street. I will press on him some token renunciation of violence in advance of a visit by myself and other European leaders in May 1997.

There are some of your countrymen who might regard this offer as insufferably smug. They might see it as the action of an arrogant and morally bankrupt continent eager to divert attention from its domestic inadequacies. They might feel that the problems of America's inner cities are complex and not susceptible to outside meddling and platitudes. I know from talking to you that you would not share this view.

Once again, May 1997 is the date. I repeat, you owe me one.
Yours ever,
John Major

Simon Jenkins

The most important speech given by President Clinton in Europe this week was not to the British Parliament or to the peoples of Belfast, Londonderry or Dublin. He gave it at a reception at the American Embassy residence in London's Regent's Park at 6.30 last Wednesday, before leaving for the Downing Street dinner. Unpublicised, the 300-strong audience was carefully selected from the London American community. Each guest was able to shake the hands of Bill and Hillary and some even won a photograph. The speech was free of cliché and waffle and there was no mention of Northern Ireland. It was raw politics. Three times the President pleaded with those present to call their senators and congressmen back home and lobby for his Bosnian policy initiative. He made no bones. He needed American boys in Bosnia and needed them badly.

Political success depends on three things: timing, timing and timing. Both Mr Clinton and Mr Major are now working to clocks loudly ticking. Mr Major's handling of Northern Ireland has so far been shrewd. Its achievement has been 15 months of real peace in the Province. For Americans to pretend this has anything to do with Washington is ludicrous. It arose from the obscure chemistry of the Provisional IRA, brewed in flats, bars and hovels from Ardoyne and Andersonstown to the Bogside. As for this week's shenanigans, they were a premature celebration of an achievement from which Mr Major was most wise to absent himself. The phoney last-minute deal on the Mitchell "twin track" commission was a spit in the hand at a Sligo horse fair. It was good for a binge.

The danger for Mr Major is that the so-called peace process might now move from stall to forward gear. Ever since the ceasefire, he has been able to pander to the Unionists' insistence on the IRA "decommissioning" its weapons, which he and they know to be a nonsense. By telling Sinn Fein/IRA that he cannot have them at talks before they have handed in their arms — because the Unionists would simply walk out — he has postponed the moment when he risks one or other side walking out anyway.

Elections to any Stormont assembly, even to an assembly to ratify a new constitution, will tear republicanism, and probably Unionism, apart. Elections risk plunging Ulster back into its old polarisation and instability. Mr Major wants none of this before a general election. "Decommissioning" has been a perfect excuse. Now Mr Clinton, with his Mitchell commission and its February deadline, has produced no solution but merely momentum, and a most inconvenient one. There is nothing the commission can say that will satisfy the two communities, though it could enrage the militant wings of both.

But then it was not Mr Clinton's objective to be helpful. If so, he would not have given Gerry Adams a visa. His objective was to be helped. He is a politician. Those of his remarks on Northern Ireland that were not vacuous showed a shrewd awareness that he has no power in the matter. What Mr Clinton was enjoying is what he excoriated George Bush for enjoying, that glorious balm of a quick foreign policy initiative to boost an ailing presidency. For him Northern Ireland has been a low-cost photo-opportunity. Mr Major must struggle to re-establish a plausible inertia that will last at least another 18 months.



The election clocks are ticking for Bill Clinton and John Major

Bosnia is what concerns Mr Clinton. Bosnia is what occupied his private meetings with British ministers in London. He knows that Bosnia is the most reckless and extravagant adventure undertaken by Nato in its history. He can see through the media cheerleading that is goading him on — worthy of Randolph Hearst at his most warmongering. The *Washington Post*, *New York Times* and *Time* magazine have all been portraying Europe this past week as pathetic, enfeebled and useless. America by contrast is strong, bold and already successful in the cause of peace.

This travesty of a thoroughly cynical saga in American foreign policy will doubtless find its nemesis in the bodybags. You would not know from the American press that hundreds of Europeans have died in Bosnia while America preached "lift and strike" and did everything to encourage the Muslims and wreck the impartiality of the United Nations mission. You would not know that the Americans broke the arms embargo by aiding the Croatians as they ethnically cleansed Serbs in Krajina and then ratted on their erstwhile Muslim friends at Dayton. Now they must send 20,000 troops (albeit to the safest part of Bosnia) to make Clinton's peace bid look good, sucking 40,000 European troops into a year-long expedition devoid of coherent political objective.

This is not foreign policy. It is a gigantic punitive raid worthy of the most hamfisted 19th-century imperialist. Mr Clinton has promised his nation he will be out in a year. President Bush said that of Somalia and Kennedy of Vietnam. When powerful states choose to intervene in the internal affairs of others for domestic political reasons, we should all shudder. The British contingent to the forthcoming War of Clinton's Ego has already expanded from 10,000 to 13,000. What is Mr Major going to say to these men as they depart?

I will lay money these troops will still be in Bosnia by election time, not just in America but in Britain. I will lay money they will leave shortly afterwards. I will lay money the fighting in Bosnia will then recommence. But the timing will have been great.

Sell O'tape

THE HISTORIC moment when President Clinton publicly shook hands with Gerry Adams in Belfast on Thursday has had more than political reverberations.

The only man to capture the handshake on film, an amateur using his video camera, is locked in a furious argument with the BBC, which secured one of the bargains of the year when it snapped up his footage for just £100.

Initially, Gerry Hagan, who manages a travel agent on the Falls Road, was baffled to be offered even £100 when a BBC representative came into his shop. Why would they want his shots when the massed ranks of the world's lenses had been following Clinton's every move?

It was only after he had signed away his copyright that he learnt that the crush of onlookers had shielded Clinton from the press and he and a sightseer with a stills camera were the only ones to immortalise the moment.

The picture has been beamed across the world and is destined for incalculable repeat showings. Hagan has consulted his solicitor. "When I signed the piece of paper I didn't know it was the only film. But now I think I should have some more money as it is going to be famous," he says.



The BBC insists it has not made a penny from the video and never will. "The BBC has not made any money out of this. We made what we thought in the circumstances was a sensible deal," says a spokesman.

"It is BBC Northern Ireland and BBC copyright. We are not going to hand it to another organisation in the future."

One can only assume all documentaries on the history of the Northern Ireland peace process made outside the BBC will forever lack the handshake.

● *Fresh from his defence of the family at the General Synod this week, the Archbishop of Canterbury is now preaching the need to get back to basics. He is suggesting that churchgoers read the Bible. Writing in this week's edition of the Church of England newspaper, Dr Carey says that he longs to "see Anglicans setting an example to the world at large in taking the Bible seriously".*

Bloody game

THE SUGGESTION by William Rees Mogg on this page earlier in the week that it might be time to seek our politicians from the ranks of those, like Colin Powell, who are descended from Edward I, sent genealogists into overdrive. Close study of how his descendants spread across the nation reveals that no less than 16 members of the present government are of Plantagenet stock.

The aristocratic dynasty includes William Waldegrave, Nicholas Soames, David Heathcoat-Amory, Viscount Cranborne, Earl Ferrers and Earl Howe.

"Most of them are descended through Elizabeth of York who married Henry VII," says one expert in such matters. "So they've got Tudor blood coursing through their veins, which is a pretty good political pedigree."

PG tips

THE P.G. Wodehouse Society has been rebuffed by Mohamed Al Fayed after asking him to become their patron. But now it is somewhat relieved that he didn't take the job for there are suspicions that his knowledge of the great comic writer's work is not what they had suspected.

A polite letter declining the role on the grounds of pressure of work has arrived from Al Fayed. He writes of Wodehouse's genius for invention and how much he admires his books.

But the society is baffled by his claim that he had done his bit for Wodehouse by permitting the Harrods depository to be used for filming a television series which seems to be about the adventures of a gentleman's gentleman in a city in the west of England: "Jeeves and Worcester."





Danny La Rue and Lily Savage: handbags start to fly

Post haste

LORD MENUHIN clearly has great faith in the international mail system. A letter has arrived at the French Embassy in London, thanking the Ambassador for a dinner. It was addressed simply "The French Ambassador, London".

However, its journey was not straightforward. Posted in Norway, the missive landed in Paris on the desk of the American Ambassador, Pamela Harriman. She popped it back in the post and, three weeks after writing, the letter finally reached its destination.

Hobby horse

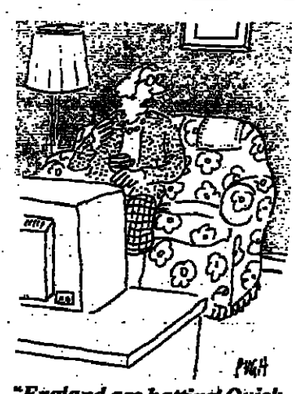
NEXT YEAR's edition of *Who's Who* has thrown up some intriguing personal pastimes. New entrant Lenworth George Henry (alias comedian Lenny Henry) describes himself as a "self-confessed funkateer" and lists his interests as "going to nursery and pretending to be a soul singer". But the Bishop of Saskatchewan is the most abrupt. His hobby is "tyrannising the clergy".

Life's a drag

THE PLATINUM blonde wigs are flying in a screecher of a cat fight between the nation's drag queens. Veteran female impersonator Danny La Rue has torn into the ubiquitous young pretender Lily Savage for being *too* outrageous. However, transvestite Savage is spitting and kicking back.

The feud began after La Rue, who is about to tread the boards as Widow Twankey in his 40th pantomime season, in Wimbledon, singled out Savage after a recent television performance which he thought was tasteless.

"I bet the studio switchboard was jammed with angry viewers," he pouts. Savage, who has been busy with breakfast television and West End shows, replies that La Rue is a classic old dinosaur and "a good example of taking early retirement before you get addled and bitter".



"England are batting! Quick, or you'll miss it!"

● *Going to the Tate Gallery will be a spiritual experience over the Christmas period. The annual Tate Christmas tree, created by Cornelia Parker, will be laden with dried fruit and the potent smell of brandy will be wafted around it for that special festive aroma.*

P·H·S

هكذا من الاصل

A FRAGILE MIRACLE

Lessons for Ulster from the Clinton visit

The hero's welcome granted to President Clinton in Ireland this week exceeded all expectation. It was always hoped that his visit would be a significant moment in the Ulster peace process and would breathe life into the troubled negotiations. But few can have anticipated the emotion which his presence stirred on the streets of Belfast and Londonderry. For a quarter century these streets ran regularly with blood; the people that flocked to greet the President are heartsick of violence and were glad of the chance to say so in their thousands.

The spirit of the trip was captured by Catherine Hamill, a nine-year-old Roman Catholic whose father died in the Troubles. "My Christmas wish," she said, "is that we have peace and love and that it will last in Ireland forever." What might have seemed sentimental in a different setting was authentic in this context. This small child spoke for a Province whose people long for an end to the bloodshed.

Not even the intervention of the most powerful man on earth can satisfy this longing. As the President said, the people of Ulster are "making a miracle". But the miracle is not complete. The technical obstacles to a lasting settlement are no less formidable than they were when Air Force One landed in Belfast. Before February — the target date for all-party talks — the new international commission on disarmament must draw up a comprehensive plan for the decommissioning of paramilitary weapons. The talks, if they happen, will bring together men implacably divided over fundamental constitutional issues.

The Unionists regard cross-border authority as utterly unacceptable: Sinn Fein sees it as no more than an interim measure. Unionists want a new assembly for Ulster; nationalists say there can be no "internal solution". The violence, meanwhile, continues in the form of punishment beatings, intimidation and sporadic disorder. The shades of the past lurk angrily in the wings, ready to claim the Province once more.

Nonetheless, Mr Clinton's trip was more than an exercise in political pageantry. It has pushed the peace process forward in the broad sense that it made clear how high the stakes have become and how great the cost of failure would be. The President has invested publicly in the achievement of a settlement. Ulster's leaders know that they will have him to answer to if the peace process falls apart.

Many will ask why the White House should have any say over what happens in Belfast. In theory, they are right. In practical terms, however, Mr Clinton's personal involvement is a useful insurance policy against political mischief. Without America's imprimatur, inward investment to Northern Ireland would wither away. To disrupt peace now would be to court international outrage. Ian Paisley, who acted petulantly during the President's visit, should remember that. So should Sinn Fein's leaders who threaten a return to violence with deplorable regularity.

More important than international opinion is local feeling. Twenty-five years ago, Londonderry was a battlefield. This week, its streets thronged with people who have tasted peace and found it sweet. Republicans have long argued that their greatest advantage is "majority tolerance" — the willingness of the nationalist majority to tolerate IRA activity if not to participate in it. That claim always seemed dubious. Now it seems spurious. The people of Northern Ireland have never been so ill-disposed to the men of violence. They would not accept a return to bloodshed with the resignation they have shown in the past. The structures of support on which terrorism has survived are crumbling. More than any diplomatic agreement, the crowds on Ulster's streets were proof of something new and fragile which must now be nurtured with care.

HEALTH AT STEAK

Time for transparency over the dangers of BSE

The drumbeat of warnings over "mad cow" disease is ever more insistent and ever more alarming. Sir Bernard Tomlinson, a distinguished authority on brain disease, has given a public warning that beefburgers, beef liver and meat pies could cause Creutzfeldt-Jacob disease (CJD), the counterpart brain condition in human beings of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). The Government has called on him to explain his remarks, while publicly trying to play down the growing concern among doctors, scientists and vetrinary surgeons about the potential risk to the public from BSE. Colin Blakemore, Professor of Physiology at Oxford, has meanwhile accused the Government of making scientific predictions that were neither fair nor reasonable.

The Government's position gives no comfort. With each tightening of the regulations to prevent the spread of BSE, it has been forced into an almost furtive admission that earlier scare stories had more substance to them than its studied insouciance admitted. There is a widespread fear that the risk is unquantifiable: we do not know how infectious BSE is, and may not find out for at least a decade. The incidence of CJD among farmers and those who have come into contact with cattle may be coincidental. But epidemiologists do not make light of data shrouded in uncertainty. It still seems true that the risk of BSE passing to human beings is minimal, although it has already vaulted to other species. But minimal is not the same as zero. If, in ten years' time, people start dying of an appalling degenerative disease contracted as a result of eating British beef products, the legal and moral liability of the Government will be too ghastly to contemplate.

The public demand for certainty cannot easily be satisfied. But at the very least the existing regulations should be properly enforced. At present, too many instances have been recorded of sloppiness, negligence and plain fraud in slaughterhouses. The rewards and punishments in this area should immediately be reviewed. All temptation for farmers to curb their losses by turning a blind eye to possible infection should be removed by paying compensation equal to the maximum they could get for the live animal. At the same time the penalty for not properly removing and incinerating all organs suspected of harbouring the disease should be tough: imprisonment or a very large fine.

While the Government dithers, the market may soon enforce its own disciplines. As public worries grow, so too will the pressures on meat retailers, hamburger restaurants and manufacturers of meat products to prove that the beef they use is free not just from infection but from any possible contact with diseased herds. This, inevitably, will put a premium on meat imported from countries where there has been no incidence of BSE and could impose a discount on all British beef. British farmers could swiftly face ruin. It is now in their own interest, and that of the entire meat industry, to eradicate all trace of BSE as soon as possible, whatever the cost.

The Government, for its part, must look seriously at the growing tendency of courts, especially the European Court of Justice, to award very high levels of damages. The punitive element in such awards is likely to be particularly high in cases where a government is shown to have acted with reckless disregard to the health of its citizens. Transparency and caution must therefore be the watchwords.

BOLSHOI BELLY

The invasion of the bodysuit snatchers

Russians are taking up belly-dancing. Not only are the fleshy-faced men who have done well out of the end of the Cold War jaunting to Cairo with their wallets stuffed with Egyptian pounds. But Russian women, too, their place at the bottom of the black economy, are roaming the world to make a living by any means they can. The belly-dancer in the tourist hotel is now as likely to be Naughty Natasha as Foxy Fatima.

This may come as a shock to the tourists. Russian women are world-famous at their native arts and sports of ballet, gymnastics and the circus. But until now Russian dancing has been characterised by entrechats — and by Cossack squatting and kicking-out-alternate-legs that would give lesser people hernias. Until now their dancers have shown no talent for the softer balletic arts of quivering like a jelly in a rising gale and making the tassels attached to either breast revolve in opposite directions. Russian women of the dancing age are muscular and graceful, but lack the vital equipment for belly-dancing. Entrepreneurs on business trips might not have welcomed recognition across the local colour by a countrywoman who knew their wives at the parish pump of Moscow.

Nor will the arrival of the Russians please the Egyptian professionals of the ancient dance they call *raks sharki*. They are already under attack from religious fundamentalists. Like Japanese geishas, their art is deplored by post-feminist scruples and the feeling that middle-class Madame Fahmys do not put their daughters on the table to shake themselves about, however many dollars may be stuffed into their straps. Cairene dancers are likely to be militant in protection of their closed hop. Last month Fifi Abdu, the prima bellerina of the art, stormed into a Cairo hotel to attack a comic impressionist as he mimicked her act.

Such an old-fashioned demarcation dispute should be absurd in an art as universal as dance, which transcends nationality. The French and Russians may have perfected ballet. But today ballerinas and impresarios come from many countries. Belly-dancing started as a harem art, for women's eyes only, as they waited in the taxi-rank for the pasha. Generations of servicemen passing through the Suez Canal have been foreign connoisseurs of it. Paradoxically it has become a popular dance for Western women wanting to keep fit and slim.

Bagpipes have spread far beyond their native glens to the shores of Pakistan and Japan. The flamenco and the Irish jig, with stamping and swivelling knees, are sisters under the skirt. Dance is a universal and ancient language, from Salome to Svetlana. Race does not matter. Nor does age. There is no room in belly-dancing for restrictive practices or discrimination.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Queen's gesture to Christian unity

From Mr R. N. Bowes

Sir, As you rightly point out in today's leading article, "Sacred service", the Queen's attendance yesterday at a service in Westminster Cathedral is to be welcomed (see also letters, November 29, 30). By helping to bridge the ancient gulf between Canterbury and Rome, it advances the unity in Britain of the Church of Christ.

However, I believe that divisions between the other Christian movements in Britain remain equally damaging and that the need to redress them is now urgent.

It was largely the patrician attitude of the Anglican Church in the 19th century which created and expanded the Free Church movement here, and we must be glad that this attitude has long since disappeared. But it is an unhappy fact that so many of the ministers of the various churches are prepared to talk about unity without wanting the reality. One remembers with shame the time when, in the early 1970s, union with the Methodist movement was more or less achieved, only to be dashed by the attitude of the Anglican clergy.

I wonder whether such ministers realise the great longing held by many of their congregations for unity. They might also be encouraged by the thought that the thousands of Christian church buildings in this country that are under-used, expensive to maintain, and often decaying could be better deployed.

I would urge all those in authority to realise that unity should now be their chief goal. A blast of the trumpet is needed to wake them up, so that they may move purposefully and swiftly towards the union that Our Lord would expect.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
R. N. BOWES,
Fairacre,
Enton Green, Godalming, Surrey.
December 1.

From the Chancellor of Chichester Cathedral

Sir, Dr Bradshaw calls (letter, November 29) for "an equally warm-hearted move from the Church of England" in response to the invitation extended to the Queen to attend vespers in Westminster Cathedral. Many who will wholeheartedly applaud his sentiments will be unable however to applaud his suggested response.

Simply to reiterate the Church of England's existing policy of sacramental hospitality — and so to repeat an invitation which Roman Catholics who heed the counsel of their own authorities will feel bound to decline — is hardly the most generous of initiatives. May I suggest another?

Every newly consecrated diocesan bishop of the Church of England has to make a personal act of homage to the Sovereign. The wording of this oath has barely changed since the 16th century and it contains more than one phrase which is liable to cause both misunderstanding and offence.

In the present context I have in mind the one which obliges the newly consecrated bishop to acknowledge "that no foreign prelate or potentate has any jurisdiction in this realm". Though this is obviously aimed at the Pope, one is at liberty to ask to what extent Britain's membership of the European Union has already rendered it an anachronism.

In 1990 the Archbishops' Group on the Episcopate, which was chaired by Chancellor Sheila Cameron, QC, and of which I was a member, produced a report entitled *Episcopal Ministry*. It pleaded strongly (pp 230-231) for a rewording of this oath. In particular, it argued that

> in an ecumenical age we consider it important that no impression should be given that acceptance of the spiritual jurisdiction of a universal primacy in a future united Church could not be reconciled with episcopacy in the Church of England.

Five years later on there is still — as far as I am aware — no movement on this question. Is *this* the opportune moment?

Yours faithfully,
ROGER GREENACRE,
4 Vicars' Close,
Chichester, West Sussex.

From the Reverend T. A. Gardiner

Sir, Dr Bradshaw's encouragement to practical ecumenicity is surely to be followed. I communicate Roman Catholics at the Anglican altar regularly. A French Roman Catholic priest stayed with me one weekend and we shared the consecration, he in French. In the afternoon we shared the baptisms.

What harm is there in this?

Yours faithfully,
TOM GARDINER,
The Rectory,
Greensted, Ongar, Essex.

From the Reverend M. P. Bird

Sir, How sad — doubly sad because it was predictable — that the British Evangelical Council (letter, November 29) should object to the Queen's visit to Westminster Cathedral.

Love and reconciliation are at the centre of the Christian gospel and this gesture warms my heart as an Anglican priest — and I am sure the hearts of thousands of other Christians also. This time love has triumphed over division.

Yours faithfully,
MAURICE BIRD,
61 Beechwood,
Woodlesford, Leeds, West Yorkshire.

Shopping around to curb the car

From Mrs Mercia Mason

Sir, Your leader of November 17 about short car journeys suggested various palliatives, mostly long-term and expensive and none likely to find favour with ordinary, busy car-users, as today's correspondence confirms.

However, there is one course, neither long-term nor expensive, which could make a significant contribution to reducing short car journeys. Many people would be willing, or indeed would prefer, to walk to shops, but cannot carry home what they have bought. What we need is a return to the delivery service which most shops used to operate, especially in country districts.

Even if it were no longer economically viable for each shop to run its own service, those in the same area could surely arrange a co-operative scheme, running a communal van two or three times a week.

Better still would be a return to the order system. When I first came to this large village in the 1960s I could simply telephone for what I wanted and in due course it would be delivered to my kitchen table. I did not have to go to the shops at all; my car remained in the garage, and I was free to do other things.

Even if this system entailed a small extra charge on the household bill, I think most of us would be happy to pay it in return for the benefits it would bring.

Yours faithfully,
MERCIA MASON,
Ridge House, Jonas Lane,
Wadhurst, East Sussex.
November 28.

From Mr Harley Sherlock

Sir, Martin Pawley may well find the private car essential in Oxfordshire (letter, November 28), but in inner London it is a disaster: polluting the air we breathe, ruining our physical environment, encouraging crime on our streets by driving out the pedestrian, and (ironically) reducing our mobility.

It is much more difficult to move around the capital than it was 30 years ago, and more difficult for goods to be collected and delivered. Because of the switch of commuters from buses to cars, the people-carrying capacity of the radial roads to central London has actually been reduced by about a third, in spite of highway "improvements".

For the sake of our health, our environment, our economy and our mobility, we should be giving up our cars in London and returning to public transport. The technology of the 1990s should be capable of providing us with an urban transport system at least as effective as the one we had in the 1960s, which got us around better than at present and got heavy shopping delivered to our front doors.

Yours faithfully,
HARLEY SHERLOCK,
Andrews Sherlock & Partners,
(Chartered architects, surveyors),
5 Cowcross Street, EC1.

From Mr Charles Markuss

Sir, It is a great solace to learn from Messrs Jeffrey Rose and Martin Pawley (letters, November 28) that car drivers are not lazy, but are merely using their time to best advantage. This should doubtless be some crumb of comfort as I sit on the bus ensnared in traffic jams every morning, with a nine-mile journey taking 45 minutes due to the scores of car drivers carrying no passengers but making the best of their time in their usual, selfish, way.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES MARKUSS,
23 Melrose Road, Little Lever,
Bolton, Greater Manchester.

Traffic in Edinburgh

From Mr I. Howard Wright

Sir, Magnus Linklater's article on traffic calming in cities, published in your Scottish edition of November 21, strikes a chord. As he points out, the sad thing is when such measures are imposed in a city which does not have much of a traffic problem. Visitors from congested cities in England who are told about "Edinburgh's traffic problems" usually double up with laughter.

I certainly agree that Edinburgh Council is going over the top. Side streets near me in the Blackford area of the city have the entrances narrowed and pavement-width "sleeping policemen" made from cobble stones: not ideal for those with walking difficulties.

I also regard the statement attributed to the chairman of Edinburgh's transportation committee that "car-ownership in Edinburgh is growing faster than anywhere in Europe" as just as suspect as the claim, made a few years ago to further the same cause, that pollution in Edinburgh is worse than elsewhere in Europe. When I was laid low by the pollution in Bottrop, known for having the worst pollution in the Ruhr, I was told by a German: "At least the air here is better than in Edinburgh." How could this apply to a city as windy as Edinburgh, with such wide streets, and so little polluting industry?

Yours faithfully,
I. HOWARD WRIGHT,
Flat 23,
39 Blackford Avenue, Edinburgh 9.

From the Chair of the Transportation Committee, Lothian Regional Council

Sir, Magnus Linklater argues that "traffic is the life-blood of a city". Perhaps his message should have been passed to the Chancellor of the Exchequer before he announced his Budget measures: reduce taxes and duties on cars, encourage people to drive around as much as possible, and economic growth will automatically follow.

Is this the holy grail that has eluded us for so long? The evidence is quite the contrary. Congestion costs business billions of pounds a year. City centres are abandoned for soulless out-of-town shopping and business "parks". The choices available to the non-car owning population are reduced.

It is not traffic that is a city's life-blood, it is the ability to move people (not just car-users) and goods around easily and effectively. And as well as blood, cities need lungs and the space to undertake the activities that are the very reason for their existence. Continuing increases in car traffic will both clog the arteries and stop the breathing. Healthy cities, with a prospering economy and a good quality of life, cannot be achieved by letting car traffic rule.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID BEGG,
Chair,
Transportation Committee,
Lothian Regional Council,
Regional Chambers,
Parliament Square, Edinburgh 1.
November 28.

Prep school places

From the General Secretary of the Girls' Schools Association and the Secretary of the Headmasters' Conference

Sir, The Government is to be congratulated on its plans to extend the assisted places scheme (report, November 30). Members in our associations will be delighted that more places are to be made available as demand has never been higher. While there are some schools whose present quota is adequate in providing support for pupils, there are others looking forward to offering high-quality independent school education to those from lower-income families in their area.

We are pleased that some excellent academic schools, previously denied participation because of small sixth-form numbers, will now be able to offer places. It is disappointing, however, that the expansion of the scheme excludes preparatory schools, unless they are part of all-through independent schools. We hope a mechanism can be found to include these since, as with other schools in the scheme, they would offer great value for money.

Yours faithfully,
SHEILA COOPER,
General Secretary,
Girls' Schools Association,
VIVIAN ANTHONY,
Secretary, Headmasters' Conference,
130 Regent Road, Leicester.
November 30.

Weekend Money letters, page 39

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

Abkhazia repression

From Dr David Braund

Sir, The sad truth about the Abkhazian question (letter, November 30) is that Abkhaz separatists chose to ride a tiger when they allowed themselves to be used by Russia against the emerging Georgian republic. Now that Georgia has been brought back into the Russian sphere, not least under the pressure of Abkhaz separatism, the tiger has turned on them.

The only hope for Transcaucasian nationalists of all persuasions lies in co-operation within the region, not recourse to imperialists from outside. Unfortunately, throughout the post-communist world there is scant respect for human rights, or for any form of law.

Yours etc,
DAVID BRAUND,
Exeter University,
Department of Classics
and Ancient History,
Queen's Building,
The Queen's Drive, Exeter, Devon.
December 1.

Penny foolish

From Major U. F. B. Tristram

Sir, My partners and I recently paid corporation tax but disregarded the odd 12p shown on the demand. We have now had two second-class letters from the Inland Revenue asking for the 12p, despite the fact that after the first letter we sent 12p in stamps. This represents expenditure of 38p to demand 12p. Is this the standard of economic wisdom in the Inland Revenue?

Yours faithfully,
U. B. TRISTRAM,
19 Mallards Reach,
Weybridge, Surrey.
November 27.

Dissecting merits of Turner award

From Professor Michael Sullivan

Sir, Today you quote one of the judges of the Turner Prize, as saying: "The act of putting oil on canvas doesn't make great pictures" — as if anyone in their senses thought it did. "Fundamentally," he goes on, "paintings and objects are all about ideas — so there is no difference". So there is no difference between Rembrandt's portraits and their subjects, between Cézanne's paintings and the landscape of Provence?

Surely it is not the ideas, which may be new or familiar, grand or trivial, which make a great work of art, but the quality of their expression, which is essentially a matter of form, of an intense, private and mysterious interaction between the artist and the medium. That is why the works of Francis Bacon will endure, while those that depend solely on the "idea" become, once their novelty has worn off, valueless.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL SULLIVAN,
St Catherine's College, Oxford.
November 29.

From Mr Roy Miles

Sir, Now the hype is over, a prize has been given to a man who cuts animals in half and it is called Art; a woman runner-up exposes her private parts and it is called Art.

Why no comment from the Great and the Good? Also, a deafening silence from the Ministry for the Arts.

Among those at the Tate at the televised event two students were asked their opinion. They replied that if they did that sort of work they would get no marks.

Like the Emperor's clothes, truth will out.

Yours faithfully,
ROY MILES,
Roy Miles Gallery,
29 Bruton Street, W1.
November 29.

From Mr R. M. Hodges

Sir, There are obviously more views than one as to whether this year's winning entry is or is not a great work of art.

Would it help to clarify that issue if the winning artist, in this and future years, were offered a one-man show at the Tate so that the winning entry could be seen in the context of a wider selection of the artist's work?

Yours faithfully,
R. M. HODGES,
68 Eaton Terrace, SW1.
November 29.

From Mrs Patricia Coward

Sir, Damien Hirst is by no means the first artist to dissect a carcass and be exhibited at the Tate. George Stubbs (1724-1806) did the same but fortunately for posterity left the carcasses at home. Stubbs produced many fine studies from his dissections, which include the *Anatomy of the Horse*.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICIA COWARD,
Cwm Farm, Coed-y-Paen,
via Pontypool, Gwent.
November 30.

Change of style

From Dr Jack Barford, CEng

Sir, That dentistry is a specialised branch of healthcare, as are chiropody, aromatherapy, massage and many others which aim to improve people's well-being, is beyond doubt. However, I doubt that Dr Ronald Green (letter, November 29) would extend the title to practitioners of all such disciplines.

If Britain is to bring itself into step with the rest of Europe, then should we not more properly restrict the term doctor as a title of a recognised, learned person, not as a vague job description?

Yours faithfully,
JACK BARFORD,
12 Victoria Square, Clifton, Bristol.
November 30.

El Niño effect

From Mr David Lambert

Sir, The warm ocean current El Niño, which sometimes appears off Peru around Christmas, brings the reverse of the "bumper fish catches" claimed in Science Briefing (November 20). El Niño decimates catches by displacing the cold nutrient-rich water in which the anchovies feed. In the worst events so many fishes and seabirds die that their corpses produce enough gas to blacken ships' paintwork, a phenomenon wryly called, after Lima's port, the Callao Painter.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID C. LAMBERT,
Spur House, Priory Lane,
Lamberhurst, Kent.

Tinkering with words

From Mr Louis Wiseman

Sir, Is it possible that Mr Ian Pittaway (letter, December 1) misread the word "tankering" on the vehicle and that it actually read "Hankering for Yorkshire Water"?

Yours sincerely,
LOUIS WISEMAN,
135 Sandgate High Street,
Sandgate, Folkestone, Kent.
December 1.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 1: His Excellency Mr M.K. Tsekoa and Mrs Tsekoa were received in farewell audience by The Queen and took leave upon His Excellency relinquishing his appointment as High Commissioner for the Kingdom of Lesotho in London.

Mr David Walker was received by Her Majesty upon his retirement as Serjeant-at-Arms and Chief Accountant and Paymaster, and invested him with the Insignia of a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron and Trustee, this morning chaired a meeting of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Trustees and gave a Luncheon at Buckingham Palace.

His Royal Highness, Patron, this afternoon visited and opened the new Head Office of the Charities Aid Foundation at Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent.

By Command of The Queen, the Lord O'Neill (Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of County Antrim) was present at Belfast International Airport this morning upon the Departure of The President of the United States of America and Mrs Clinton and bade farewell to The President and Mrs Clinton on behalf of Her Majesty.

The Duke of Edinburgh was represented by Brigadier William Mackereth at the Funeral of Colonel George Bromhead which was held at St Mary's Church, Painswick, Gloucestershire, this afternoon.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 1: The Prince Edward, Trustee, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, this morning attended a meeting of the trustees followed by a Luncheon at Buckingham Palace.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
December 1: The Duke of Kent, Chancellor, the University of Surrey, this afternoon presided at the Conferment of Degrees Ceremony, Guildford Cathedral, Guildford, Surrey.

The Duchess of Kent this afternoon visited Her Majesty's Prison Downview, Sutton Lane, Sutton, Surrey.

Mrs Colin Marsh was in attendance.

Royal engagements

Tomorrow
Prince Edward will attend a Christmas carol concert given by the Epworth Choir at the New Victoria Theatre, Woking, Surrey, at 7 in support of the Children's Hospice Appeal.
Princess Alexandra, as president, will attend a carol concert at the Royal Naval College Greenwich at 6.55 in aid of the Children's Country Holidays Fund.

£1m bond winner

This month's £1 million Premium Bond prize has been won by the holder of bond number 40AW 367837. The winner lives in Gloucestershire and has a bond holding of £1,026.

Reception

Lancing College
Queen Anne of Romania, accompanied by Mr David Taylor, Executive Director of the Princess Margarita of Romania Trust, attended a reception held last night at Lancing College, and on behalf of the trust, received a cheque for £1,000 raised by the boys in Second's House. Mr K.A. Shearwood, registrar of the college, received the guests.

Sovereign's Parade

General Sir John Wilsey, Commander in Chief, Land Forces, will review the Sovereign's Parade at Sandhurst on Friday, December 15, at 11am on behalf of The Queen.

Luncheon

The Austrian Ambassador
The Austrian Ambassador and Mrs Georg Hennig gave a luncheon to honour Mr Clemens N Nathan and present the Officer's Cross to him at the Austrian Embassy yesterday. Among those present were:
Dr and Mrs Rudolf Engel, Sir Sigmund and Lady Sternberg, Mr E Tabachnik, QC, Mr Ernest David, Professor Michael A Branch, Dipl Ing Dietmar Wolf, Mr Otto Huber, Mr Hermann Loacker, Mr Arthur Harverd, Mr David Loewe, Mr Richard Denyer, Mr Richard Moss, Mr Martin Emery, Mr Ivan Shaw, Miss Elizabeth Nathan, Mrs Jennifer Pearl, and Mr and Mrs Clemens N Nathan.

Service dinners

1st Regiment Royal Horse Artillery
Past and present members of the 1st Regiment Royal Horse Artillery held their annual Reunion Dinner at Woolwich last night. Major General M.T. Tennant, CB, Honorary Regimental Colonel, presided. Major General J.M. McNeill, CB, CBE, Commanding Officer during the period 1949-51, was the principal speaker.

HAC Mess Club
Colonel Sir Colin Cole, President of the Honourable Artillery Company Mess Club, presided at a dinner held at Armoury House last night. Captain J.H. James, Lieutenant-General the Hon Sir William Rous, Quartermaster General and Colonel, Coldstream Guards, and Professor Sir Michael Howard also spoke.

Dinners

Turkish-British Chamber of Commerce and Industry
The Turkish Ambassador and Mrs Sanberk were the guests of honour at the joint annual dinner dance of the Turkish-British Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Anglo-Turkish Society held at the Savoy Hotel last night. Mr S. Onur, chairman of the chamber, and Mr David Lane, chairman of the society, presided.

Old Latymerian Association
The annual dinner of the Old Latymerian Association was held last night at Latymer Upper School. Mr G.C. Gurney was the chairman. Lord Walker of Worcester and Mr C. Diggory, Headmaster, also spoke.


General Alexander Haig is 71 today, and the actress Daryl Hannah 35 tomorrow

Birthdays

TODAY: The Earl of Arundel and Surrey, 39; Sir Maurice Bathurst, QC, 82; Sir Frederic Bennett, former MP, 77; Mr Timothy Boswell, MP, 53; the Hon Nigel Calder, science writer, 64; Mrs Beryl Chitty, diplomat, 78; Professor Sir Alan Cook, former Master, Selwyn College, Cambridge, 73; Sir Frank Cooper, civil servant and company chairman, 73; Sir David Davies, former chairman, Welsh Development Agency, 86; Mr Ian Finlay, former director, Royal Scottish Museum, 89; Mr David Green, director, VSO, 47; Mr Michael Green, chairman, Carlton Communications, 48; General Alexander Haig, former United States Secretary of State, 71; Marshal of the RAF Sir Peter Harding, 62; Miss Patricia Hewitt, former deputy director, Institute for Public Policy Research, 47; Dr Gwyn Jones, chairman, Broadcasting Council for Wales, 47; Sir George Labouchere, diplomat, 90; Dr Brian Lang, chief executive, British Library, 50; Mr Roy Moss, former vice-chairman, Allied Domecq, 66; Dame Winifred Prentice, former president, Royal College of Nursing, 85; Miss Monica Seles, tennis player, 22; Mr Alex Smith, MEP, 52; Mr Gianni Versace, fashion designer, 49.

TOMORROW: Mr Trevor Bailey, cricketer, 72; Mr Ralph Bennett, former chairman, London Transport Executive, 72; Mrs Joan Brander, founder, The Winged Fellowship, 81; Profesor Ian Butterworth, former Principal, Queen Mary and Westfield College, 65; Mr Charles Craig, tenor, 76; Mr Mike Gibson, rugby player, 53; M Jean-Luc Godard, film director, 65; Miss Daryl Hannah, actress, 35; Sir William Harpham, diplomat, 89; Mr Maxwell Hutchinson, former president, Royal Institute of British Architects, 47; Sir Brian Jenkins, former Lord Mayor of London, 60; Professor G.S. Kirk, former professor of Greek, 74; Mr Franz Klammer, skier, 42; Mr David McCall, chairman, Anglia Television, 61; Miss Tanya Moiseiwitsch, theatrical designer, 81; the Rev Professor C.F.D. Moule, theologian, 87; Mr Paul Nicholas, singer and actor, 50; Mr Victor Pasmore, CH, artist, 87; Mr Robert Phillis, deputy director-general, BBC, 50; Mr Mel Smith, actor, 43; Professor P. Toyne, Vice-Chancellor, Liverpool John Moores University, 56; Mr Andy Williams, singer, 65; Mrs K.M.I. Wilson, former chairman, Equal Opportunities Commission for Northern Ireland, 75.

Anniversaries

Today
BIRTHS: Henry Gally Knight, architect and writer, Langold, Yorkshire, 1786; Georges Seurat, painter, creator of "pointillism", Paris, 1859; George Minot, physician, Nobel laureate 1934, Boston, Massachusetts, 1885; Maria Callas, soprano, New York, 1923.
DEATHS: Hernán Cortés, conqueror of Mexico, Seville, 1547; Marquis de Sade, writer and adventurer, Charenton Asylum, Paris, 1814; Stephen Potter, humorist, London, 1969; Philip Larkin, poet, Hull, 1985; Aaron Copland, composer, Westchester County, New York, 1990.
St Paul's Cathedral, rebuilt by Wren, was opened, 1697.
Napoleon Bonaparte crowned himself Emperor, Paris, 1804.

Tomorrow
BIRTHS: Robert Bloomfield, poet, Honington, Suffolk, 1706; Sir Rowland Hill, originator of the penny post, Kidderminster, 1795; Joseph Conrad, novelist, Berdichev, Russia, 1857; Anton von Webern, composer, Vienna, 1883.
DEATHS: Francis Xavier, missionary, Shang-ch'ua, China, 1552; Robert Louis Stevenson, writer, Samoa, 1894; Mary Baker Eddy, founder of Church of Christ, Scientist, Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, 1910; Pierre Renoir, painter, Cagnes, France, 1919; Sir Oswald Mosley, founder of British Union of Fascists, Paris, 1980.

Official heritage guidance criticised

By Norman Hammond
Archaeology Correspondent

ANCIENT monuments and historic buildings in Wales could be at risk, because of a government document that lowers protection. According to the Council for British Archaeology (CBA), implementation of *Planning Policy Guidance (Wales)* "will almost certainly mean trouble for conservation in Wales".

"The consequences could include the destruction of archaeological sites which might otherwise have been protected, and the demolition of historic buildings which might otherwise have been saved," Richard Morris, the CBA's director, says in the council's newsletter *British Archaeology*.

The document cancelled all existing government guidance to local authorities in Wales, he says. "It condenses and simplifies no fewer than 23 existing detailed documents into a single document that is short, weak, and unclear."

Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) documents state the criteria by which the Government expects planning decisions to be taken by local authorities, and provides detailed practical guidance. Two of the most recent, PPG15 on historic buildings and PPG16 on archaeology, have transformed the relationship between planning and conservation in England.

PPG16 in particular, with its presumption in favour of preservation rather than excavation of archaeological sites in the face of potential destruction through development, has led to a dramatic decline in excavation.

That "ground-breaking document" has been reduced to four paragraphs, Mr Morris says, while the historic buildings PPG15 has now shrunk to a tenth of its original length in the new Welsh Office document. "However, it is generally accepted that Welsh authorities need more guidance in matters of conservation, not less, because their in-house expertise is presently limited," he says.

"The detailed guidance missing from *PPG (Wales)* will, supposedly, be provided by technical advice notes. If these are closely based on the cancelled documents, the whole exercise becomes pointless: if they depart from them in spirit or detail, the Government will have to explain why it is prepared to countenance a different level of care on the two sides of the Welsh border." Mr Morris adds.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr P.M.J. Gould and Miss L.M. Mackay
The engagement is announced between Philip, son of Mr and Mrs M.J.R. Gould, of Jersey, Channel Islands, and Louise, only daughter of Brigadier and Mrs I. Mackay, of Salisbury, Wiltshire.

Mr A.W. Griffin and Miss V.A.McN. Heaslip
The engagement is announced between Andrew Wynn, elder son of Mr and Mrs John Griffin, of Worcester, and Vanessa Alexandra McNichol, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Kester Heaslip, of Killiney, County Dublin.

Dr G.J. Jordan and Dr S.E. Rushton
The engagement is announced between Gareth, younger son of Mr and Mrs D.S. Jordan, of Yeovil, Somerset, and Suzanne, only daughter of Mr and Mrs A.M. Rushton, of Selborne, Hampshire.

Mr J.G. Macedo and Miss C. Michael
The engagement is announced between Julian Gui, son of Mr and Mrs John M. Macedo, of Chelsea, London, and Beit Mery, of Lebanon, and Chrystalla, daughter of Mr and Mrs Stavros Michael, of Isleworth, London, and Tymbou, Cyprus.

Mr R.D. Nerurkar and Dr G.J.G. Davey
The engagement is announced between Gail, daughter of Mr and Mrs P.G. Davey, of Oxford, and Richard, son of Mr and Mrs D.J. Nerurkar, of Menston, North Yorkshire.

Mr T.R.B. Owles and Miss E.L. Garrett
The engagement is announced between Toby, son of Mr and Mrs Richard Owles, of Thorpe Bay, Essex, and Emma, daughter of Mr and Mrs Patrick Garrett, of Tarporley, Cheshire.

Mr M.C. Rapkin and Miss E.J. Prentice
The engagement is announced between Marc Christian, son of Mr and Mrs Douglas Rapkin, of Stockport, Cheshire, and Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs Martin Prentice, of Battisford, Suffolk.

Mr D-J.D.A. Sheehan and Miss C.J.H. Watson
The engagement is announced between David-James, eldest son of Mr and Mrs David Sheehan, of London, W8, and Carey, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs David Watson, of Charlton Down, Hampshire.

Mr T.H. Wallis Harper and Miss A.J. Rider
The engagement is announced between Tom, son of Mr John Harper, of Littleport, Cambridgeshire, and Mrs Pamela Cantle, of Instow, Devon, and Anna, daughter of Mr and Mrs Norman Rider, of Newport, Essex.

The Royal Society of Chemistry

The following were admitted as Fellows of The Royal Society of Chemistry in October 1995. They are entitled to use the designation "Chartered Chemist" and the letters CChem FRSC.
P W C Barnard, C D Bell, J H Brophy, M R Cranmer, V A Crowle, S P Dawling, P M Doyle, B Earl, G H H Eccles, S E Golunski, J P Gupta, T A Hase, S J Haswell, J R Helliwell, C B Jackson, D J Knight, P W Law, R C Metcalf, C P Shaw, P Styring, R V Venkateswaran, D J Watson.

Church services tomorrow: First Sunday in Advent

ABERDEEN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.15, Darke in E, Rejoice in the Lord alway (Redford), the Provost; 6.30 Advent Carols.
BELFAST CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; 11 S Euch, Rorate coeli (Plainsong), Rejoice in the Lord; 3.30 Advent Procession, Matin Responsory (Palestrina), Benedictus (Gibbons), A Boy was born (Britten).
BRISTOL CATHEDRAL: 7.40 M; 8 HC; 10 Choral Euch, Messe Solenelle (Langlais), Rorate Coeli (Bryd), the Dean; 3.30 Advent Carols.
CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 M, Rev Potter; 11 S Euch, Protect O Lord (Tavener), Missa Sancti Dominici (Rubbra), Salve lux laetitiae (Ridout), Rt Rev Williams; 3.15 Advent Carols; 6.30 Compline, Rev R Symon.
CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 7.45 M; 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Mass for 4 voices (Byrd), E'en so come, Lord Jesus (Paul Manz), Canon D Weston; 3 E; 3.30 Advent Carols.
CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 9.30 Euch, Rev J Jones; 11.15 S Euch, The Litany (Tallis), Rorate coeli (Palestrina), Canon D Knight; 3 Carols; 6 Advent Service.
CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, Benedicte (Sumsion), Benedictus (Chant), Behold I make all things new (Rose), the Precentor; 11 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Berkeley), Laetentur coeli (Byrd), the Chancellor; 3.30 E, Darke in F, Hosanna (Weelkes).
CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Oxford: 8 HC; 10 M, Benedicte (Purcell), Canon O'Donovan; 11.15 Mass for 5 voices (Byrd), Hosanna (Weelkes), Canon Gordon; E, Audivi vocem de caelo (Tallis).
DERBY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.45 S Euch, O Lord in thy wrath (Gibbons), First movement, Sonata 2 (Hindemith), Mr A Flintham; 4 EP; 6.30 Advent Carols.
DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8, 11.15 HC, Messe Solennelle (Vierne), Jesu the very thought of thee (Bairstow), Canon D Hodgson; 10 M, Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes), Canon R Coppin; 3.30 EP; 7 Advent Carols.
ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Messa Solenelle (Langlais), When came in flesh (Guest), the Dean; 6.30 Advent Carols.
EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 Euch, Canon D Ison; 11.15 M, Responses (Shephard), Benedicite (Sumsion), Benedictus (Chant), Hosanna to the son of David (Weelkes), the Treasurer; 3 E, Responses (Ferial), O thou the central orb (Wood); 6.30 Advent Carols.
LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Mass in G minor (Vaughan Williams), Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes), A Spotless Rose (Howells), the Dean; 3.30 E; 6.30 Carol Service.
LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8, 12.30 HC; 9.30 S Euch, Missa de Angelis (Kyrie), Messe Solennelle (Langlais), Rev P Sulston; 11.15 M, Benedicte (Sumsion), Zion hears the watchmen's voices, Rev R Crossland; 2 Advent Carols; 5.45 E, Fourth service (Batten), Awake awake put on thy strength O Zion (Wise).
LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 8 MP & HC; 10.30 Euch, Mass for 4 voices (Bryd), Canon M Wolfe; 3 Advent Carols; 4 HC.
MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8.45 MP; 9 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Hosanna to the son of David (Weelkes), Canon R Preston; 6.30 Advent Carols.
NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8 HC; 9.30 S Euch, Benedictus/Messe cron Jubilo (Duruflé), Canon B Langley; 6 Advent Carols.
SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Euch, Missa Alma redemptoris Mater (Victoria), Rejoice in the Lord alway (Anon), Canon J Osborne; 11.30 M, Responses (Byrd), Venite (Chant), Canon P Hardman; 3 E, Responses (Byrd), Zion hears the watchman's voices (Bach); 7 Advent.
SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch; 11 Choral Euch, Missa Brevis (Berkeley), There is no rose (Britten), Remember, O thou man (Ravenscroft), Rev A Nunn; 3 EP; 6.30 Advent Carols.
SOUTHWELL MINSTER: 7.45 L; 8.30 MP; 9.30 Parish C, Benedicite (Purcell), Benedictus (Harwood), Hosanna to the son of David (Gibbons), the Precentor; 6.30 E and advent.
TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 M, the Chancellor; 10 S Euch, the Litany (Tallis), Mass for four voices (Byrd), the Treasurer; 5 EP; 6 Advent Carols.
WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 C, Canon Applebee; 11 S Euch, Litany (Loosemore), 1640 Mass (Monteverdi), Canon Applebee; 4 Advent Carols.
WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 S Euch, Missa Cantuariensis (Rubbra), Ubi caritas et amor (Duruflé), Rev P de N Lucas; 11.30 M, Benedicite (Sumsion), Lacrymosa, dies illa (Mozart); 3 E, I waited for the Lord (Mendelssohn), Rev Prebendary Barnett; 6 Advent Carols.
WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC; 10 M, Responses (Tomkins), Benedicite (Harris), And the glory of the Lord (Handel), Canon C Semper; 11.15 Euch, Ubi caritas (Duruflé), the Dean; 3 E, Vox dicentis (Naylor), Rev Prebendary P Speck; 6.30 Advent Carols.
WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 7, 8, 9, 12, 5.30, 7 M; 10.30 SM, Missa in hon S Dominici (Rubbra), Christe Iesu pastor bone (Taverner); 10 MP; 3.30 V & B, Magnificat octavi toni (Lassus), Ne timeas, Maria (Victoria).
WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.35 M; 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Kyrie Orbis factor/Missa Euge bone (Tye), Canon Walker; 3.30 E, Second service (Byrd), Ave Maria (Parsons), Mrs A Bamber; 6.30 School advent.
YORK MINSTER: 8, 8.45 HC; 10 S Euch, Litany (Loosemore), Mass for four voices (Byrd), Rev Canon Dr J Toy; 11.30 M, Benedicite & Benedictus (fauxbourdons) (Moore); 4 EP; 6 Advent Service.
ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Clwyd: 8 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Darke in F, Lasset uns frolocken (Mendelssohn), the Dean; 3.30 Advent Carols.
ST DAVID'S CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 Euch, the Succentor; 11.15 Choral M, Ireland in F, Wake O wake (Bach), the Minor Canon.
ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, London: 8 HC; 8.45 M; 11 S Euch, Vigilat/Mass for 4 voices (Byrd), Benedictus (Gibbons), the Dean; 3.15 E, The first service (Moore), Canite tuba in Sion (Handl), Rev M Saward; 6.30 Advent Carols.
ALL SAINTS, Margaret Street, W1: 8, 5.15; 10.20 MP; 4.30 HM; 11 Missa Aeterna Christi munera (Palestina), Vigilate (Byrd), Canon J M Armson; 6 Advent Carols.
ALL SOULS, Langham Place, W1: 9 C; 11 Rev S Wookey; 6.30 Rev J Cook.
THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick St, W1: 11 Missa quo abiit dilectus tuus (Manchicourt), Glorious and powerful God (Stanford), Canite tuba in Sion (Guerrero).
CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8, 12.15 HC; 10 Children; 11 M, Mr G Home, Rejoice in the Lord Alway; 6 E, Rev Dr P Ely.
FARM STREET, W1: 7.30, 8.30, 10, 12.15, 4.15, 6.15 LM; 11 SM, Creator alme siderum (Praetorius), Puisque j'ai perdu (Lassus), Dixit Maria (Hässler) Fr M Beattie.
HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, Brompton Rd, SW7: 9 HC, Rev S Downham; 11 Informal HC, Rev N Gumbel; 5, 7 Informal, Mr J Jennings.
THE ORATORY, Brompton Rd, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass, 12.30, 4.30, 7 Missa Alma redemptoris nater (Victoria), Aspiciens a longe (Handl); 3.30 V & B, Ne timeas Maria (Victoria).
ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH: Iverna Gdns, W8: St Thaddeus & St Bartholomew, Apostles & First Illuminators of Armenia.
WESLEY'S CHAPEL, City Road, EC2: 11 MS HC; Confirmation, Rev P Hulme.
WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist), SW1: 10 HC; 11 Rev Dr R Gibbins; 6.30 EP, Rev Dr P Graves.
ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St, EC2: 11 Choral HC, Rev P D Schmiege; 2 Swahili HC, Rev J Shabaya; 7 Advent Carols.
ST BRIDE'S, Fleet St: 11 Benedicite (Sumsion), Coventry Mass (Howells), Hosanna to the son of David (Weekles), Canon J Oates; 6.30 Advent Carols.
ST CLEMENT DANES: 11 Choral Euch, Missa Brevis (Palestrina), Salvator Mundi (Tallis), Rev P Bishop.
ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont St: 11 40th Anniversary Service, Rev Dr A Weber; 6.30 Rev C MacLeod.
ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Missa in Honorem Dominici (Rubbra), Ave Maria (Bruckner).
ST JAMES'S, Garlickhythe, EC4: 10.30 S Euch (1662), J Paul, Rector.
ST JAMES'S, Sussex Gardens, W2: 8 E; 10.30 S Euch, Mass for 3 voices (Rubbra), Wachet Auf (Bach), Rev A Meldrum; 6 Advent Procession.
ST JOHN'S, Stratford E15: 11 Family, Rev D Richards, Litanies (Alain); 6.30 World Aids Week, Rev Modicum Okello.
ST MARK'S, NW1: 8 HC; 10.30 Euch, Rejoice in the Lord Alway (Anon), Rev T Devonshire Jones; 6 Advent Carols.
ST MARGARET'S, Westminster, SW1: 8 HC; 10 M, Rev C Semper; 11 S Euch, Rev D Hutt; 11.15 Euch, Very Rev. 3 E, Rev Prebendary P Speck; 6.30 Advent Carols.
ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS: 8, 12.30 HC, Rev W Ratchford; 9.45 Euch, Vicar; 11.30 Vistors, Rev B Schunemann; 2.45 Chinese, Rev G Lee; 6.30 Vicar.
ST MARY ABBOTS, Kensington W8: 9.30 Euch, Vicar; 11.15 Choral M, Rev F Gelli; 6.30 Advent Music.
ST MARY'S, Bourne Street, SW1: 9, 10, 7 LM, The Windsor Mass (anon), Canon D Skeoch; 6 E&B.
ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, Primrose Hill: 8 HC; 10.30 Euch, Rev D Jones, Litany in Procession, Hosanna to the son of David (Weekles); 6 Advent Carols.
ST PAUL'S, Wilton Place, SW1: 8, 9 LM; 11 SM, Darke in A, Tomorrow shall be a dancing day (Gardner), O Magnum mysterium (Poulenc), Rev N Dawson.
ST PETER'S, Eaton Square, SW1: 8.15 HC; 10 Family; 11 S Euch, Missa orbis factor (Salus Aeternal), Fr D Tillyer.
ST STEPHEN'S, Gloucester Road, SW7: 8, 9 LM; 11 SM, Missa a 5 (Byrd), Aspiciens a longe (Palestrina), Confortamini et iam nolite timere (Lassus), Fr N Cocking.
CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, Tower of London: 9.15 HC; 11 M, Responses (Leighton), Benedicite (Purcell), Jubilate, Rev T Thornton.
CHAPEL ROYAL, St James's Palace: 8.30 HC; 11.15 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Walton), Canon J G W Murphy.
CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: 8.30 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Missa O Magnum Mysterium (Victoria), O thou the central Orb (Wood); 3.30 Advent Carols.
GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley Street, W1: 8.15 HC; 11 S Euch, Missa Ave Maris Stella (Victoria), Exsurge Domine (Byrd), Kyrie, Gott heiliger Geist (Bach), Rev S Hobbs.
QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 11 S Euch, Jackson in G, Rev S Manley-Cooper.
THE TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP, Hosanna to the son of David (Weelkes), Responses (Ayleward), Benedicite omnia opera (Sumsion), Benedictus (Thalben-Ball), Prepare ye the way of the Lord (Wise), Master.
GUARDS CHAPEL: 11 Choral HC, Hosanna to the son of David (Weelkes), Missa Sacramentum (Pearmain), Rejoice in the Lord alway (Anon), Chaplain.
ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, Greenwich: 11 S Euch, Sumsion in F, Rejoice in the Lord alway (Redford), Rt Rev Sherbone.

Church news

Appointments

The Rev Benjamin Luck, Vicar, All Saints, Tuckingmill (Truro), to be Assistant Priest with responsibility for Holy Cross, Inns Court (Bristol).
The Rev Philip Miller, Priest-in-charge, Combs, to be Vicar, Yoxford and Peasenhall with Sibton (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich).
The Rev John Morgan, formerly Vicar, St Dunstan w St Thomas, Acton, now Vicar, All Saints, Isleworth, Priest-in-charge, All Souls, St Margaret's-on-Thames (London).
The Rev Colin Preece, Vicar, Kennington, to continue as Rural Dean of East Charing (Canterbury) for a further term of three years.
Canon Dennis Rider, Rector, Dereham and Scarning, mid-Norfolk Team Ministry, to be also Rural Dean of Hingham and Mitford (Norwich).
Canon John Rowsell to be Priest-in-charge (NSM), Hockwold and Weeting (Ely).
The Rev Simon Stokes, Curate, Christ Church, New Catton, Norwich, to be Priest-in-charge, St John's, King's Lynn (Norwich).

PERSONAL COLUMN

BMD'S: 0171 782 7272
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000
TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

Let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of Jacob's God, that he may teach us his ways, and we may walk in his paths.
Micah 4 : 2 (REB)

BIRTHS

ANDERSON - On November 28th, to Laura (née Pignatelli) and Michael, a son, Thomas, a brother for Francesca.

ARIDA - On 1st December 1995 at the Wellington Hospital, to Maria and Johnny, a son, Julian John, a brother for Eddy.

BROWNE - On November 28th 1995, to Elizabeth and Shaun, a daughter, Katharine ("Katya") Elizabeth, a sister for Ophelia.

CHAPLIN - On 21st November 1995, to William and Tracey, a son, Edward Jonathan, brother for Harry.

CLAAS - On 30th November, to Clotilde (née Bourne) and Richard, a son, Philip John Andrew, a brother for Antony.

DREW-SMYTHE - To Lisa (née Brady) and David, a daughter, Jessi Jean on 1st December, in Sydney, Australia.

GEORGIADIS - On November 16th, to Nicolas and Joanna, a beautiful son, William John.

HADJISAVVAS - On November 16th at The Portland Hospital, to Maria (née Kazela) and John, a beautiful daughter, Isabella Cressida Imogen.

HOGARTH - On November 23rd, to Claire (née Farrow) and Ian, a son, Gilean Edward Derek.

LANE - On 30th November, to Caroline (née Tillott) and Jonathan, a son, Jack Anthony Kirkwood.

LATHAM - On 1st December at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, to Theresa (née Parker) and Simon, a son, Toby Robert Simon.

BIRTHS

MOODIE - At 13.11 hours on November 29th at Queen Charlottes Hospital, to Amanda Louise and Jamie, a beautiful 8lb. 11oz. daughter, Hannah Barbara.

PENN - On 28th November, to Lesley and Anthony, a son, Joshua William, a brother for Charlotte Isabel.

RAIKES - On 26th November at home, to Mary (née Graham-Maw) and Paul, a son, George William.

STUBINGTON - To Georgia (née MacKean) and Michael, on 28th November a daughter, Lucca Inez, a sister for Claudia.

TROSS YOULE - On 11th November 1995 at the Princess Margaret Hospital, Windsor, to Karen and Simon, a son, Alexander James.

WARDE-ALDAM - On November 27th, to Mark and Celia, a daughter, Lucy Anne, a sister for Joe.

WHEELER - On 30th November, to James and Mary (née Arend) at Haywards Heath, Ruan Alexander Handley, a brother for Jenny, Veryan and Francesca.

DEATHS

BAILY - Peacefully on November 26th, 1995, Peter, aged 90 years, of Great Whittington, Northumberland. Much loved husband of Honor, father and grandfather. The funeral has taken place.

BAKER - Josephine, widow of Sir Ivor and dearly loved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend, peacefully on 30th November. Funeral at Peterborough Crematorium Wednesday 6th December 2pm. No flowers by request. Any donations to Calibre (Talking Books) Aylesbury HP22 5XQ.

BOWYER - (formerly Tringham) Olwen Rachel Annis passed away serenely on 29th November. Dearly loved by all. Funeral at St Peter's, Clevedon, 11 am Tuesday 5th December. Family flowers only please but donations to either Save the Children Fund or League of Friends, Burnham-on-Sea Hospital, may be sent c/o R.G. Rawlings Ltd. Funeral Directors, Clevedon, tel: (01275) 873210.

BURDETT - On November 29th 1995, suddenly, D'Arcy, dearly loved husband of Betty, loving father of Susan, Jeremy, Min and Richard. Devoted grandfather of his seven grandchildren, father-in-law and friend to John, Jacky, Annmarie and Charles. Funeral Service Linch Church, near Milland on Friday December 8th at 2pm. No flowers please, but donations, if desired, to the Submarine Memorial Fund, Haslar, Gosport, Hants.

CHAPMAN - George Alexander on 29th November 1995 peacefully at home aged 84 years. Beloved husband of the late Thelma (née Purvis) and brother of Josephine Wall. For many years the representative of The Times in Wales and West of England. Sadly missed by the family and amongst his many friends. Funeral Service Cheltenham Crematorium on Friday 8th December 1995 at 3.30 pm. Family flowers only. Donations in lieu (if desired) to The Marie Curie Cancer Foundation c/o Mason & Stokes, Tudor Lodge, 54 Hewlett Road, Cheltenham.

CLARKE - Peter John died on 28th November at home aged 83 years, loving husband of Elke and father of James and Catherine. Funeral Service at Oxford Crematorium on Tuesday 5th December at 3.15 pm. Enquiries to Norman, Trotman and Hughes Funeral Directors, Northleach, tel: (01451) 860288.

DYSON - P.M. (Phyllis Mary) peacefully in her home on 28th November. Beloved and courageous mother of Thalia, mother-in-law of Max, grandmother of Jason, Cato and Finn Fordham, step-grandmother of Victoria, Frances and Jeremy Le Sueur. Funeral Service at Christ Church, Victoria Road, W8, on Friday 8th December at 2pm. Cut flowers if desired to J.H. Kenyon, 49 Marloes Road, W8 6LA, or donations to Royal Brompton Hospital (TF1002), Finance Dept., Royal Brompton Hospital, Sidney Street, SW3 6NP.

ECCLES - Richard Garnett. Suddenly, aged 62, on 29th November 1995. Beloved and loving husband of Inge and wonderful father of Caroline and Simon. Also much beloved son of Barbara Eccles. Funeral Service at St John the Baptist Catholic Church, Alexandra Road, Andover, on Friday 8th December at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only, but donations, if desired, to The Stroke Association, CHSA House, Whitecross Street, London EC1Y 8JJ.

FRANKEL - Eileen Ruth (née Orr) on 30th November 1995, beloved mother of Judith Lipkin, mother-in-law of Malcolm, grandmother of Jonathan. Funeral at Golders Green Crematorium (East Chapel), Hoop Lane, London NW11 on Monday 4th December at 12.45 pm.

GOODALL - On 30th November 1995, Peter Goodall C.B.E., T.D., late of the 12th Batt. The Parachute Regiment. Dearly loved husband of Sonia and father of Charles and Caroline. Funeral strictly private, family only.

HALL - Ernest Nicholas Hall. Died peacefully on 29th November 1995 at the General Hospital, Jersey, after a short illness aged 87 years. Beloved husband of Margaret and father of Richard and Alister. Will be sadly missed by all his family. A private funeral service has taken place. A Memorial Service will take place in Jersey at a later date. Enquiries to: Pitcher & Le Quesne, Funeral Directors, (01534) 33330.

JAMESON - On November 28th Colonel James Edmund Jameson R.A.M.C. (Rtd) of Wymondham, Norfolk. Husband of Marjory. Funeral Service at St Peter's Church, Kimberley, Norfolk on Thursday December 7th at 11.30 am followed by private cremation. No flowers or letters please.

JANNEY - David on 28th November 1995 aged 43, having fought chronic myeloid leukaemia privately and with outstanding fortitude and dignity for a number of years and yet maintaining until the very end a rich and fulfilling family and professional life. Loving and beloved husband of Jill, adoring and adored daddy of Jemima (5) and Matthew (3). Funeral Service on Thursday December 7th at St Mary's Church, Barnes SW13, at 3 pm, to which all relatives, friends and colleagues invited prior to private cremation. No flowers please but donations if wished for Leukaemia Research Fund, 43 Great Ormond Street, London WC1 stating in memory of David Janney.

JUBERT - Jack George suddenly on 30th November 1995, aged 71. Dearly loved husband of Pamela and loving father of Andrew, Nicholas and John. Will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral Service at Leatherhead Crematorium on Thursday 7th December at 12.30 pm. Family flowers only. Donations for The Royal Marsden Hospital and the Parkinson's Disease Society may be sent to Sherlock & Sons, Trellis House, Dorking.

LANDER - Peacefully at Bedford Park, Plymouth, on November 30th, Heather Rhoda, late of Stoke, Devonport. Dear wife of the late Dr. Oswald Lander.

LOWNDES - Joan Holroyd on December 1st peacefully at Sutton Manor Nursing Home, much loved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral, family only.

MOLONY - Peacefully on 29th November 1995, Rosemary. Much loved wife, mother and grandmother. All enquiries to Finch & Sons, Aldershot, tel: (01252) 22281.

OLDHAM - Gillian Helen peacefully on November 29th after a long illness borne with great courage and humour. Much loved by her family and friends. Family flowers only but donations please in her memory to Edenhall Marie Curie Centre, 11 Lyndhurst Gardens, Hampstead, NW3 5NS. Funeral enquiries Levertons F/D tel: (0171) 586-4221.

SHAW - Felicitas Josephine Dorette Isabella Olga Wilhelmine (née von Frankenberg und Proschlitz) of Shalden, Alton, Hampshire, suddenly on November 29th 1995. Wife of Roland, mother of Alexandra and Victoria, mother-in-law of David Paffett, grandmother of Katharine and Christopher. Requiem Mass at St Mary's Church, Normandy Street, Alton, Friday 8th December at 11 am. Memorial Mass in Germany later. Gott gibt Gnade. Flowers to Alexander & Dry, Basingstoke, tel: (01256) 844663. Donations to REHAB - Alton and Basingstoke Cardiac Rehabilitation Appeal.

STAPLETON-BRETHERTON - Henrietta Mary, younger daughter of Major and Mrs F.B. Stapleton-Bretherton, beloved mother of Mary Archer-Shee, peacefully on November 30th 1995. Funeral Mass at 12 noon on Friday December 8th at St Catherine's Church, Leigh Road, Wimborne Minster, Dorset. Flowers or donations preferred for the Hearing Dogs for the Deaf may be sent c/o Charles Small & Son Funeral Directors, 18 West Street, Wimborne Minster, Dorset, BH21 1JR.

TATCHELL - Peacefully on 28th November 1995 Rodney Tatchell LVO, FRIBA. Aged 86 years. Much loved husband of Molly, and father of Karin and grandfather of William and Helen. His funeral service takes place at the Parish Church of St Mary on Wednesday 6th December at 1pm. Memorial Service in London to be announced later. Family flowers only but if desired donations may be sent for the West Suffolk Hospital c/o L. Fulcher, 80 Whiting Street, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP33 1NX, tel: (01284) 764049.

WILSON - Eleanor Mary (Miki) died peacefully at home on 30th November after a long illness bravely borne. She was the dearly beloved wife of Joe and a most loving mother and grandmother. Funeral at Malmesbury Abbey 2.15 pm December 6th. No flowers. Donations to Dorothy House.

SILVER ANNIVERSARIES

EGERTON - Peter and Bridget of Horton, Staffordshire, on 28th November. Thank you to our children Lottie, Tom and Katy and all our friends for their great kindness.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

HAMBLEDON'S - Finest Half Century. Kath and Ern Graham on Monday put up a Faultless Innings of 50 years married Not Out. The maiden was bowled over on 4/12/45. Never has this partnership been threatened and 75 N.O now looks certain.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

LAW - Christine Maud (née Wetherell) December 2nd 1960 - October 31st 1976. In loving memory.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

CAUSEY - Earl D Causey OBE who died in Virginia 28th July 1995. A Thanksgiving for life gathering will take place on 26th January 1996 at 12 noon in St Paul's Reformed Church, Harrogate.

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of appointment of Administrative Receiver
EDWARD ERDMAN PROPERTY INVESTMENT LIMITED
Registered number: 2621636. Trading name: Edward Erdman Property Investment Limited. Nature of business: Property Owner. Trade classification: 36. Date of appointment of administrative receivers: 21 November 1995. Name of person appointing the administrative receivers: Barclays Bank plc. Joint Administrative Receivers: A R Bloom and G H Hughes (office holder nos: 6462 and 6829). Becket House, 1 Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EU.

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased person's whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified: after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.
BOYCOTT, Cicely Hazel of Lydeard St. Lawrence, Taunton, Somerset died on 13th May 1995
HARDING, Eva of Croydon, Surrey died on 15th August 1995.
GILLETT, Jan Bevington of Kew, Richmond, Surrey died on 17th March 1995.
SPOOR, William Leonard Wallace of Morden, Surrey died on 23rd July 1995.
In each case particulars of any claims are to be made to Rawlence & Hart Solicitors of 53 Chatsworth Road, Croydon CR9 1LE, reference: MDH before 9th February 1996.

CHURCHILL, PETER GERALD Late of: 16 Earl's Terrace, London W8 6LP. Description: Barrister at Law. Died: 29th November 1995. Particulars to: Martin Churchill and Adrian Aubrey Marks Executors of Peter Gerald Churchill c/o Samuels, Marks Freedman & Natfield, 37 Gloucester Place, London W1H 4AR before 10th February 1996.

TRUSTEE ACTS

Notice is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the Trustee Act, 1925 that any person having a claim against the estate of Mrs Marie Salome de Peyer of Grove End, Upper Terrace, London NW3 6RP who died on the 11th Sept. 1994 at the Royal Free Hospital, Hampstead, NW3 should send particulars to Adrian de Peyer, Grove End, Upper Terrace, London NW3 6RP before 30th Jan 1996.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FRENCH 28 yr. old woman seeks penpal. Write to: Sylvie 774, BP 6, F-87201 St. Junien.

GWEN NORRIS - Last known to live in Kenton, Middlesex please contact Edwin Leatherbury, 41 Ames Street, Onancock, VA23417 (Tel No: 804 787 1637).

BIRTHDAYS

STEDMAN Alexander Happy 1st Birthday lots of love Mummy and Daddy xxxxxxxxxxx

ANTIQUES & COLLECTABLES

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SW14 To share lovely rented pin cottage in Royals with 30 something prof lady. All gadgets. £550pcm excl. Evie 0181 332 2422 W, 0181 878 9136 H

W1 Mayfair. Own room in flat for professional male. £150 pw inc bills. 0171 287 3748.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

BEN'S first choice is Jane. His second is the 6 of hearts - Nic.

هكذا من الاصل

OBITUARIES

GIANCARLO BAGHETTI

Giancarlo Baghetti, Italian racing driver, died of cancer on November 28 aged 60. He was born in Milan on Christmas Day 1934.

WHEN Giancarlo Baghetti won the 1961 French Grand Prix at Rheims on his first outing in a world championship event, the Italian press was ecstatic. Not only was he the first of his countrymen to win a world championship race since the days of the great Alberto Ascari in the 1950s; he also salvaged the pride of Ferrari, whose works cars all fell by the wayside on a scorching day, leaving him to win in a less powerful prototype practice car.

But the hailing of a new world champion in the making proved premature. Although he was to race for a variety of teams over the next six years, Baghetti's explosive Formula One debut was to be his only world championship victory in 21 races. He was apparently equipped with what it takes to be a top class racing driver — tactical acumen as well as the ability to extract the best from engine and suspension — and had some good races. But further success eluded him. The scion of a wealthy family who had no need to race, after retiring from the track he had a successful second career as a journalist.

The elder son of a Milan industrialist, Baghetti was indulged in his passion for fast cars at an early age; his father gave him a miniature Grand Prix Bugatti with an electric motor when he was eight. Later this was replaced by a single-cylinder petrol engine and Baghetti began to acquire a taste for somewhat higher speeds.

He joined the family business on leaving school and his motor racing career started in 1956 when he drove an Alfa Romeo 1900T at Monza, although this broke down and ended his first season abruptly. In 1957 and 1958 he gained experience in saloon and touring car events with Alfa Romeo, winning the 1958 Mille Miglia. In 1959 he switched to a Fiat Abarth 750, scoring a third place in the Coupe du Salon and a second in the Coupe de Paris at Montlhéry. He then went to Monza to share a works Abarth 1000 in record attempts including a new world record by averaging just over 117mph for 72 hours.

By 1960 he was determined to become a professional driver and, driving a Lancia-powered Formula Junior Dagrada, he won the Coppa Crivellari, the Coppa Vigorelli and the Coppa Fina at Monza. These successes brought him to the attention of the Federazione Italiana Scuderie Automobilistiche (FISA), a body run by a committee of former drivers. The association was looking for potential talent among young Italian drivers and Enzo Ferrari had agreed to make a Formula One car available to it for 1961.

Chosen from a shortlist of four names, Baghetti competed at first in sports car events, finishing second in the 12-hour race at Sebring, Florida.

But his *annus mirabilis* was 1961. When FISA entered him in a Formula One Ferrari at Syracuse, Sicily, in April that year, he scored a sensational victory over the works Porsches of Dan Gurney and Jo Bonnier in a field that also included the world champion Jack Brabham, Stirling Moss, John Surtees, Graham Hill and Roy Salvadori. The victory was the more remarkable for being achieved on a course which meandered over three miles of ordinary Sicilian roads, flanked along much of its length by walls made of basalt boulders. Unlike the rubber tyred barriers of the modern Grand Prix, these ensured that any form of contact at high speed meant the wrecking of the car and probably severe injury to the driver. But after almost crashing on the first hairpin Baghetti settled down and, driving with supreme aplomb, carved his way through the distinguished field to win by five seconds.



Baghetti proved this was no flash in the pan ten days later when in the same car he entered the Naples Grand Prix (like the Syracuse race not a world championship event). The Naples race was characterised by a titanic struggle with Britain's Roy Salvadori, driving a Cooper, which was only finally decided when a stop for a puncture ended the Cooper's challenge.

By the time of the world championship French Grand Prix at Rheims on July 2, 1961, Baghetti therefore already had a reputation among even the best drivers. But no one seriously expected him to win a world championship race on his first outing. The race took place in torrid conditions. Temperatures in the sun soared to well over 100 degrees Fahrenheit, blistering the roads. Cockpit temperatures were estimated to be as high as 150 degrees and many drivers had their overalls hosed with water just before the start to help them keep cool.

It was assumed that the three works Ferraris would make all the running, as they had done so far that season. All that seemed to be in question was which of the Maranello team's three drivers, Count Wolfgang von Trips or the Americans, Richie Ginther and Phil Hill, would take the chequered flag.

Certainly, at various times, each of the Ferraris led the race. But, inexorably one by one, they fell away — von Trips and Ginther being forced to retire through mechanical trouble and Hill, regarded by most pundits as the favourite (he was, in fact, to become the 1961 world champion), fairly soon dropping out of contention.

The second half of the race resolved itself into a 120-mile duel between Baghetti, the Porsche of Dan Gurney and the Lotus of Jim Clarke. In the event, Baghetti won the total 269-mile race by a mere car's length from Gurney, with Clark in third place, after certainly the most thrilling Grands Prix since the historic battle between Juan Fangio and Mike Hawthorn in 1953.

This performance seemed to portend a great career, and Baghetti had several fine drives for the Ferrari works team in 1962, being placed but not winning. But he was not re-engaged for 1963. He retired after the 1966 season to take up motor racing journalism with the Milan paper *Gazeta dello Sport*.

Tall, laconic and quietly spoken, Baghetti loved fishing, riding, skiing and tennis away from the circuits. He is survived by his wife Cristina and by a son and daughter.

DAVID DAVENPORT



David Davenport, dancer, choreographer and actor, died on November 27 aged 73. He was born on December 26, 1921.

DAVID DAVENPORT, who dropped the family name of Pearson when he embarked on his stage career, was born and bred a country gentleman. He became, however, one of the early pioneers of British ballet — and a stage, screen and television actor of distinction during his 50 years on the boards.

David Davenport Pearson was the younger son of a City stockbroker, Elliott Pearson and his wife Disa. He was born at Fairhill, the sprawling family property near Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, where the future Edward VIII, as Prince of Wales, was a frequent visitor.

He was brought up on the traditional values of country pursuits. He rode before he could walk and ran with hare and hounds, a sport he relished until compelled to give it up by failing health. He was educated at Berkhamsted School and Stowe.

Davenport was introduced into more artistic circles by his mother, an archetypal Edwardian gentlewoman, who persuaded her friend, the dancer Anton Dolin, to give ballet lessons to the 12-year-old boy. Knowing her husband was oppose to a dancing career for their son, Disa invited Dolin for the weekend. The famous dancer was forbidden to mention ballet and instructed to talk only of horses and hunting, about which Dolin luckily happened to have some knowledge. When Dolin left Fairhill, Elliott was convinced of the soundness of the ballet world. "Of course David can dance," he told his wife. His son left Stowe after a year to attend the Cone Ripman Ballet School, full-time, in London.

In 1938 Davenport joined the Lydia Kyasht Russian Ballet, where his imposing presence (he was 6ft 2in tall) and his virile grace as a dancer, made him the talk of London's theatre world.

He was invited to join the Sadler's Wells Ballet, now the Royal Ballet, in 1942, where his already commanding acting talents coupled with a naturally majestic bearing, led to his being cast as the King in *Sleeping Beauty*, the title role in *Job*, as well as appearing with Margot Fonteyn and Robert Helpmann in *Miracle in the Gorbals*, *Wedding Bouquet*, *Dante Sonata* and partnering Beryl Grey in *Les Patineurs*.

His stint as an RAF wireless operator from 1942 until 1946 added to a rich store of anecdotes with which he frequently reduced his friends to helpless laughter, and earned him a reputation as an after-dinner raconteur.

He rejoined Sadler's Wells Ballet in 1946 in the celebrated Oliver Messel-designed *Sleeping Beauty* that reopened the postwar Royal Opera House. He met his future wife, the dancer Margaret Maddison, when he appeared as the Wild Horse Dancer in the touring company of *Annie Get Your Gun* in 1948. They were married a year later.

Apart from a brief period with the International Ballet Company in 1950, he then concentrated on the musical stage, playing in productions of *Brigadoon*, *Kismet*, *The King and I* and *Oklahoma!* as well as in a total of 11 pantomimes at the London Palladium. He also took particular pride in choreographing many ballets for the Joanna Denise Classical Dance Group.

Davenport's film credits included *Carry on Cleo* and *Carry on Henry*, *King's Rhapsody* with Errol Flynn and Anna Neagle, and *84, Charing Cross Road*. On television he achieved national notoriety as Malcolm Ryder in *Crossroads*, Noel Gordon's scheming husband. When the character he played attempted to poison Meg, David was attacked by furious fans in Birmingham. He was also regularly seen in *All Creatures Great and Small*.

His theatre work encompassed a wide variety of roles from Shakespeare to *Charley's Aunt*. He first worked with Frankie Howerd in 1976 in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. After his final West End appearance in *The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole* in 1986, Howerd asked him to join his next show.

Sadly, his deteriorating health prevented him from ever working again.

His marriage was dissolved and he is survived by his daughter.

ROBERT WELLESLEY-COLE

Robert Wellesley-Cole, surgeon, died in London on October 31 aged 88. He was born in Freetown, Sierra Leone, on March 11, 1907.



IN the 1940s, as the first black African ever to be elected a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, Robert Wellesley-Cole overcame considerable racial prejudice to force his way along a path in which many of his countrymen were subsequently to follow. He was in a modest way a figurehead for his people.

Although from the age of 20 he lived most of his life in England, he maintained close contacts with his own country of Sierra Leone. He was a member of several Colonial Office advisory committees: touring West Africa — Gambia, Sierra Leone, the Gold Coast and Nigeria — in this capacity at the end of the Second World War he was to play a key role in preventing the British Government from lowering higher educational standards in countries that were soon to secure their own independence. Thanks to his work, university standards abroad were raised to the same level as those of London University.

A prolific reader, as well as an accomplished pianist and organist, he encouraged cultural development in West Africa, founding a literary club in Freetown, and later a writers' club. He himself was an enthusiastic writer, penning travelogues of his journeys in West Africa, and novels, one of which was published. He was also a founder member of the students' organisation, West African Society and the editor of its magazine *Africana*.

In England, too, where he practised as a doctor, he worked for the promotion of African culture and was a prominent member of such organisations as the Society for the Cultural Advancement of Africa, the West African Students Union and the League of Coloured Peoples of Great Britain and Ireland.

Robert Benjamin Ageh Wellesley-Cole was born in Freetown, Sierra Leone. His great grandfather had been a Nigerian prince who, rescued from the clutches of transatlantic slavetraders, had settled as a free citizen in Freetown. Baptised a Christian he had chosen for his name that of the man whom he saw as "the greatest warrior in the world", Arthur Wellesley, the first Duke of Wellington. Thenceforth Wellesley became the family name.

His great grandson, Robert, was educated at the Cambridge Senior School (now the Sierra Leone Grammar School) in Freetown where he excelled academically. In 1922 he came second in the Empire in the number of distinctions obtained in his School Certificate. On the strength of this he won a place to study Mathematics and Classics at Fourah Bay College and, on completing his degree, was appointed assistant lecturer in mathematics. However, even while in a full-time teaching career he was furthering his own education: he studied by correspondence course for an external BA in philosophy, which he was awarded in 1928 by London University.

In that same year, Wellesley-Cole came to England to study medicine at Newcastle upon Tyne Medical College. Again, he excelled academically. However, once in post-medical training for surgery, he found himself up against the suspicions and hostilities of prejudice in a society unaccustomed to living alongside its own colonials. Whereas it would have taken most candidates only three to five years to complete their surgeon's training, it took Wellesley-Cole ten. He persevered, however, and with the help of his former Scottish landlady and later his wife, Anna, he eventually set up his own practice in Newcastle. It was something of a triumph when in 1944 he became the first ever black African elected to the Royal College of Surgeons.

At the beginning of the Second World War, Wellesley-Cole volunteered for the Services, but was not enlisted. Instead, from 1942 to 1958 he became a member of the Colonial Office Advisory Committee, working for colonial welfare in Britain, and promoting economic and medical development abroad. From 1943 to 1950 he was also a member of the Advisory Committee of the Colonial Bureau of the Fabian Society.

All this time he continued to practise as a doctor. At first he was in Newcastle, but with the founding of the NHS in 1948, the roles of general practitioners and consultants were divided. Wellesley Cole sold his general practice in order to pursue the career of a surgeon consultant. But with British doctors in Newcastle boycotting his acceptance in nursing homes and hospitals, it was a disheartening time for him, especially as his marriage was also breaking up.

In 1950 he decided to move to Nottingham and make a fresh start. Here he married a second time to an African student nurse and with her help, quickly built up both a general and a consultant practice. He also continued to study and passed his examinations in opthalmic medicine and surgery.

In 1961 he attended a garden party at Buckingham Palace where he was introduced to the Queen. In the same year he was also invited to become a Justice of Peace. It was the first time this invitation had ever been extended to a black African in Britain. However, despite this seeming acceptance into British society, Wellesley-Cole and his family were consistently refused British passports, despite repeated protests and applications, until 1982.

In 1960 Wellesley-Cole published a book about childhood in Africa *Kossoh Town Boy*. After his retirement he continued writing, and his autobiography *An Innocent Abroad* was published in 1988. He was still working on a grammar of his native language Krio when he died.

He is survived by his wife and by their two sons and two

BERNARD OLIVER

Bernard More Oliver, inventor and radio astronomer, died in Los Altos Hills, California, on November 23 aged 79. He was born on May 27, 1916.

BERNARD OLIVER described himself as an "electrical engineer" but the man who founded Hewlett-Packard Laboratories, designed the world's first programmable calculator, held more than 60 American patents and pioneered the search for extra-terrestrial intelligence was something more than that.

He had, admittedly, studied electrical engineering in his youth, gaining his master's degree in that subject from the California Institute of Technology in 1936, and going on to complete his PhD *magna cum laude* four years later. But then he went to work for the Bell Telephone Laboratories for the next 12 years, helping that renowned centre of invention to develop automatic tracking radar, television transmission systems and efficient coding devices.

Oliver joined Hewlett-Packard in 1952 as director of research, designing the first programmable desktop computer, the HP 9100, and following it with a series of handheld versions as well as the company's first computer. He became vice-president of Hewlett-Packard in 1957, holding that post until his retirement in 1981.

His horizons, however, were wider. Building on his background in radio physics in the late 1960s, Oliver became interested in radio astronomy as a practical means for the detection of intelligent life elsewhere in the universe. His scheme for a phased array of 10,000 steerable dish antennae proved the catalyst for a major feasibility study — Project Cyclops, conducted by Stanford University in 1971.

After retirement Oliver remained involved in the search for other-worldly intelligence, working at Nasa's Ames Laboratory in Mountain View, California, and at the Seti Institute. In 1986 he was awarded the National Medal of Science for "translating the most profound discoveries of physical and communication science into the electronic, radio and computer systems that have improved our culture and enriched the lives of all Americans".

His wife died in 1994. He is survived by one son and two daughters.

MISS KINGSLEY'S TRAVELS.

Miss Kingsley, who has recently been travelling in the Cameroons, arrived in Liverpool on Saturday by the British and African Company's steamer Bakana. She furnished to Reuter's Agency a few particulars of her travels.

Miss Kingsley left Liverpool last December for the second time to visit West Africa, chiefly to collect piscatorial specimens and study the "fetish" customs of the natives.

After reaching Old Calabar, Miss Kingsley proceeded to the French settlement of the Gaboon, and made it known to the authorities that she wished to explore the gorilla country in the interior and to go up 206 miles up the Ogowe river to N'Djole. After much difficulty, Miss Kingsley got together a canoe's crew of eight natives, and started for the rapids.

The canoe journey was a long one, and nearly a dozen times the craft was upset and its occupants were thrown into the water. The current was strong and Miss Kingsley had several narrow escapes, being saved more than once by clutching the rocks in the rapids and by holding on to them until the natives righted the canoe.

ON THIS DAY

December 2, 1895

To describe Mary Kingsley (1862-1900) as intrepid is scarcely adequate. Traveller, writer and collector, she visited parts of Africa that were often unpleasant and extremely dangerous.

Miss Kingsley had the most remarkable adventures in the Fangwe country while travelling overland from the Ogowe river to the Rembwe. The Fangwes are cannibals of the most pronounced type, always at war with each other, and are one of the few tribes in Africa who eat their own dead. Miss Kingsley had with her three "elephant men", or hunters, of the Fangwe tribe and four Djuma men.

At almost every town the Fangwes stopped the expedition and wanted to eat the three Fangwe elephant men as they were enemies. Sometimes by persuasion, sometimes by threats of punishment, and sometimes by a little present the men were each time saved.

Miss Kingsley did not come across one burial-place in the Fangwe country, but she found that in most of the native mud huts pieces of human bodies were being kept just as civilised people keep eatables in their larders. On one occasion, when Miss Kingsley was turning out the contents of a sack to find out the origin of a sickening smell, hands, feet, eyes and other human remains tumbled out on to the ground.

The Adjumas, on the other hand, bury their dead in the forest. This was discovered by Miss Kingsley in a gruesome manner. While collecting some botanical specimens she came across several mounds of composed earth and leaves. Thinking they were a new form of anthill, she removed the upper layers with her stick, when dead bodies came to view.

Miss Kingsley refused to relate any gorilla stories, saying that too much doubt was cast upon all such accounts by the public. She saw many large gorillas, but these invariably made off on the approach of the band. One, however, persisted in an attempt to molest them, and was finally despatched by the elephant men. He measured 5 ft. 7 in. in height. Two of his teeth are now in Miss Kingsley's possession.

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Professor Robert A.F. Chapman of Wales is the best figurative painter in this country at least. Chapman's thoughts on this matter are confirmed by The Tate Gallery London and the Welsh Arts Council, Cardiff, Wales. His pictures are exceedingly beautiful the price of the paintings are a £1,000,000. Will people seriously interested also multi millionaires that have benefited from The National Lottery please contact David Rubin & Co, Pearl Assurance House, 319 Ballards Lane, London, N12. David Rubin will be pleased to show you the paintings on request. Professor Chapman would like to thank those few people who have helped him achieve this success.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

EX-SERVICES MENTAL WELFARE SOCIETY
We honour those who gave their lives for our country. But what of those who shared the same horrors and survived... their minds shattered.
The Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society cares for men and women from the services with varying degrees of mental illness in our convalescent homes and veterans home.
A donation now or a legacy later will help those who have given their most precious gift after life itself.
COMBAT STRESS
Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society
Broadway House, The Broadway, Wimbledon SW19 1RL Tel: 081-543 6333

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Please help us give compassionate care to abused and abandoned cats and dogs and those whose owners have died or are seriously ill. Our sanctuary provides daily forest walks for dogs, also a neutering service in the poorer city areas. We spay not slay.
Donations to:
WOODSIDE ANIMAL WELFARE TRUST, Efford Park, Plymouth PL7 5EB (Reg. Charity No 258788).

MANY A LOT OF CHILDREN IS SAPPY, MERE AWHILE
The National Children's Bureau is creating and maintaining high standards in children's services, benefiting children all over the country.
But such important work needs money.
By remembering us in your will, you can help us do so much more.
Contact Karen England on 071-278 9441 for information.
NATIONAL CHILDREN'S BUREAU (Charity No. 258825)
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Advertisements for the Court Page must be submitted two working days prior to publication and are accepted subject to confirmation.

NEWS

Clinton asks nationalists to help

■Bill Clinton completed his hugely successful trip to Britain and Ireland by appealing to Irish nationalists to help the peace process, telling them to show understanding for the position of Ulster's Unionists. In Dublin, the President brought 100,000 cheering people on to the streets to hear a passionate plea for a lasting solution to the troubles ..... **Pages 1, 2**

Heseltine tells of leadership meetings

■John Major informally offered Michael Heseltine the post of his deputy three weeks before he called the Tory leadership election, the Deputy Prime Minister reveals in an interview. Mr Heseltine tells of a private meeting at which Mr Major revealed that he was going to take on all-comers ..... **Pages 1, 8**

Leeson sentence

Nick Leeson will be sentenced today in a Singapore court after pleading guilty to two of the eleven charges he faced ..... **Page 1**

Major battle

John Major signalled a battle with European leaders when he made clear that is prepared for isolation over a single currency ..... **Page 2**

Cult members jailed

Two British women who belonged to the Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh cult were sentenced to five years for conspiring to murder a senior figure in the US judiciary. **Page 3**

Hamburger scare

The Government has called on Sir Bernard Tomlinson to explain his claims that beefburgers could cause the human equivalent of "mad cow" disease ..... **Page 5**

Workfare pilot

Up to 6,000 long-term unemployed people will be made to join a workfare pilot scheme .... **Page 6**

Church change

The Archbishop of Canterbury endorsed the reorganisation of the Church of England's management structure ..... **Page 9**

Suburbs closed

Two predominantly white areas in Johannesburg are to close off streets with crash barriers as an anti-crime measure ..... **Page 10**

Clinton questions

A Senate panel submitted a series of questions to Hillary Clinton about a telephone call she is believed to have made on the night Vincent Foster died ..... **Page 11**

China accused

The Foreign Office summoned the Chinese chargé d'affaires to express British concern at "interference" in Hong Kong ..... **Page 12**

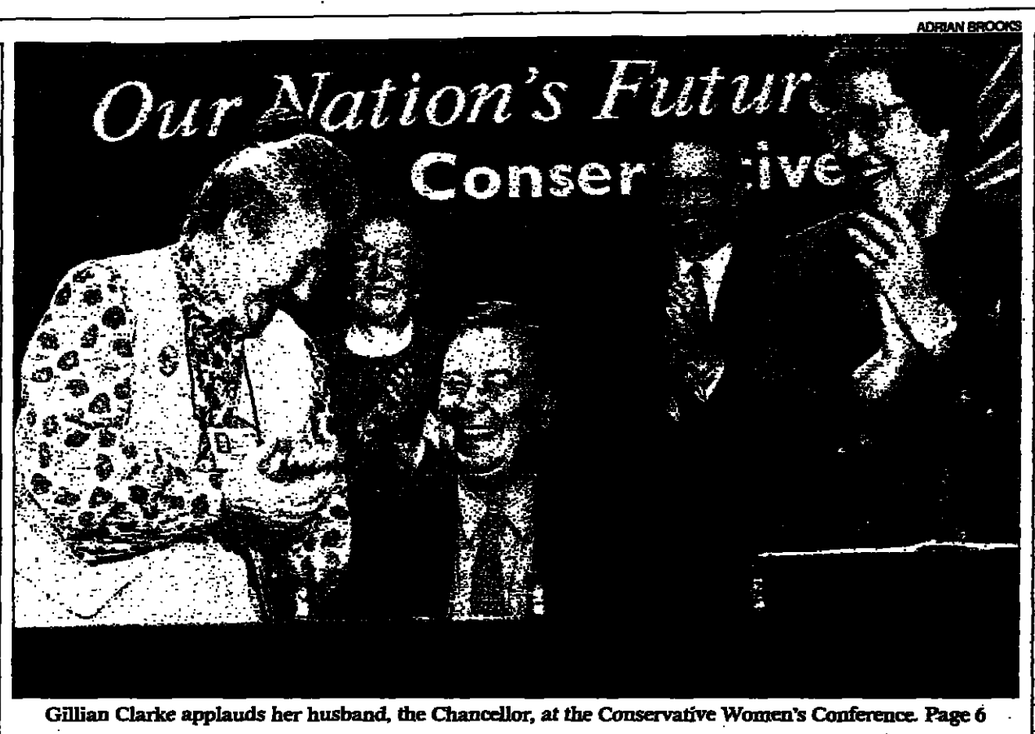
Nato appointment

Nato agreed to appoint Javier Solana, the Spanish Foreign Minister and a one-time opponent, as Secretary-General ..... **Page 15**

Beer wars strain the peace

■ When President Clinton stepped into Cassidy's pub and raised the proffered half pint he started a propaganda war between rival breweries. It was assumed that the he would be drinking Guinness. But Murphy's claimed that a single keg of its stout had been taken into Cassidy's snug ..... **Page 1**

ADRIAN BROOKS



Gillian Clarke applauds her husband, the Chancellor, at the Conservative Women's Conference. **Page 6**

OPINION

Fragile miracle: The crowds on Ulster's streets were proof of something new and fragile which must now be nurtured with care ..... **Page 21**

Health at steak: As worries over BSE grow, so too will the pressures on retailers, hamburger restaurants and manufacturers of meat products to prove that the beef they use is free from any possible contact with diseased herds ..... **Page 21**

THE PAPERS

The Haitian leader owes a debt to the world in that the US and the UN helped to restore him to power. That debt will be paid if he facilitates the first democratic transition of power.

— Los Angeles Times

COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins: For President Clinton to pretend that the past 15 months in Northern Ireland has anything to do with America is ludicrous but his greater con-trick is that America is pursuing a bold policy in the cause of peace in Bosnia ..... **Page 20**

Max Beloff: Britain's universities must free themselves of the constraints of government financing ..... **Page 20**

OBITUARIES

Giancarlo Baghetti, racing driver; **Bernard Oliver** astronomer; **David Davenport**, dancer ..... **Page 23**

LETTERS

The Queen and the Catholic Church; curbing the car; Turner prize ..... **Page 21**

BUSINESS

Airports: BAA, the airport operator, plans to spend more than £4 billion over the next decade in improving facilities at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted ..... **Page 25**

Brewing: The long hot summer and strong sales of take-home beer helped Britain's largest regional brewer, to a 13.5 per cent rise in full-year profits ..... **Page 25**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 rose 16.1 to 3680.4. Sterling rose to 82.6 after a rise from $1.5290 to $1.5310 and DM2.2094 to DM2.2123 ..... **Page 28**

ARTS

Distressed luvvies: The arts world is expressing anguish over the cuts in its grants. But the luvvies were naive to expect anything else .... **Page 17**

SPORT

Cricket: England were let down by brittle batting and were all out for 200, 132 runs behind, on the second day of the second Test ..... **Page 48**

Tennis: Russia and the United States were level at 1-1 after the first day of the Davis Cup final in Moscow. Pete Sampras beat Andrei Chesnokov in the opening match and then Yevgeny Kafelnikov beat Jim Courier ..... **Page 43**

Snooker: Peter Ebdon took a commanding 7-1 lead over Andy Hicks after losing the opening frame of their semi-final match in the UK championship at Preston .... **Page 47**

CAR 95

Happy family: Kevin Eason and Alan Copps on the £420 Budget road tax winners

SATURDAY

MAGAZINE



Kitchen sink: Age mellows Marco Pierre White. **Page 10**
Blur crazy: Sean O'Hagan and stars of Britop... **Page 20**
Labour of love: John Smith's widow keeps his memory alive ..... **Page 24**
Shopping: All the hot gift tips for Christmas ..... **Page 45**



WEEKEND

Libby Purves: How Suffolk girlhood is earning its spurs ..... **Page 1**
Books: Double helping of titles for young readers and cooks ..... **Pages 12, 13**
Travel: Skiing, Russia, Burma and Iran ..... **Pages 16-21**
Gardening: Dramatic effect in a dormant garden. **Page 5**

10 15



The weekly magazine for young Times readers
Saturday girl: How Emma Forbes is live and kicking at 9.15am ..... **Page 6**
Win: The greatest music party — four free VIP tickets to the Big Twix Mix ..... **Page 3**
Recommended: Best games, music, films, books.. **Page 10**



VISION

Seven-day TV and radio guide
Cover story: Channel 4 showcases soap operas from around the world, as well as classic episodes
Film of the Week: Billy Wilder brings sex and drugs to Baker Street in *The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes*, Sunday, BBC1, 11.15pm

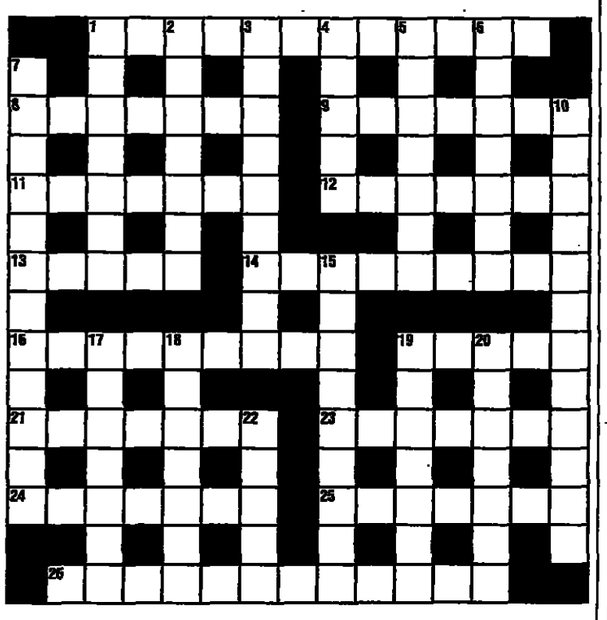
THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,028

KNOCKANDO PURE SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISKY

A bottle of Knockando, a superb Speyside Single Malt Scotch whisky uniquely bottled only when at its peak of perfection rather than at a pre-determined age, together with a fine leather credit card wallet, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address .....

.....



ACROSS

1 Clothes collected, hopefully, from weaver and artist (6,6).
8 Scholarly line brought profit (7).
9 Relative has a right to be doubtful (7).
11 Feverish condition of adolescent love initially in girl (7).
12 Upright methods used on purpose (7).
13 Some other method one measures heat by (5).
14 Elderly chap holds degree in fine art (3,6).
16 The thinking man's telescope? (9).
19 One who joins up to go peacefully with the troops? (5).
21 Swimmer injured in the side (7).
23 Prematurely conclude dog has something to wag (7).
24 Regard relation (7).
25 Stamp on work papers (7).
26 One won't quite settle up — amend entry when worked out (12).

DOWN

1 Such writing comes as a relief one feels (7).
2 Chinese puzzle over butter's taste (7).
3 Mad don, perhaps, is a lone voice (3,3,3).
4 Drive to find employment for Lebanese group (5).
5 Section of *The Ring*? Opera mounted in part of Greece (7).
6 Graceful poem is unfinished — one with six feet (7).
7 One puts out tongue in an offensive way (5-7).
10 Retired officers, cool and lean (8,4).
15 Revolutionary government guide (9).
17 Emotional thrill for loving and giving boy? (7).
18 Hurt look? (4,3).
19 The hat one might have to eat (4,3).
20 Face shock treatment for non-standard speech (7).
22 Increase strength of outfit (3-2).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,022

F	U	T	O	N	S		C	H	O	W	M	E	I	N
	N		T		O		V		E		N			
M	I	S	F	O	R	T	U	N	E		A	H	O	Y
	O		C		I		N		R		T		G	
O	N	T	H	E	D	O	T		B	A	Y	E	U	X
		A		E		E		E		L				
O	V	E	N			R	E	A	P	P	E	A	R	
	A		C		W		P		R		A		T	
I	N	F	E	R	I	O	R			S	H	E	D	
	C		N		O		M		S					
G	O	R	D	O	N		P	R	O	P	E	R	T	Y
	U		E		O		V		N		H			
E	V	I	L		W	A	S	H	I	N	G	T	O	N
	E		H		E		A		E		R			
A	R	B	I	T	R	A	L		S	P	R	I	N	T

Solution to Puzzle No 20,027

S	W	I	T	C	H	B	A	C	K		A	M	I	D
E		S		A		E		O			A		I	
W	R	I	S	T	W	A	T	C	H		U	S	E	S
N		S		E		C		K		E		Q		P
		A	R	C	H	I	T	E	C	T	U	R	E	
S		B		P		A		H		E		N		
C	H	A	R	I	V	A	R	I		O	R	R	I	S
O		B		L		E		L		L		A		A
R	O	Y	A	L		R	E	S	P	O	N	D	E	R
E		L		A		O		C		E		Y		
B	I	O	G	R	A	P	H	I	C	A	L			
O		N		S		L		S		T		V		T
A	C	I	D		C	A	P	A	B	I	L	I	T	Y
R		A			N		A		O		S		R	
D	O	N	A		P	E	R	C	E	N	T	A	G	E

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: *D Powell, Plymouth, Devon; R C B Cura, Burgess Hill, West Sussex; J K Gee, Nantwich, Cheshire; R Hall, Salisbury, Wiltshire; M Seath, Rowlands Castle, Hampshire.*

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TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the code.

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Glouca,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Herefds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute all other times.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY

Sun rises:	Sun sets:
7.45 am	3.55 pm
Moon sets	Moon rises
2.40 am	1.48 pm

Full moon December 7

London 3.55 pm to 7.46 am
Bristol 4.05 pm to 7.55 am
Edinburgh 3.44 pm to 8.22 am
Manchester 3.53 pm to 8.04 am
Penzance 4.23 pm to 8.01 am

TOMORROW

Sun rises:	Sun sets:
7.46 am	3.54 pm
Moon sets	Moon rises
3.47 am	2.15 pm

Full moon December 7

London 3.54 pm to 7.47 am
Bristol 4.04 pm to 7.57 am
Edinburgh 3.43 pm to 8.23 am
Manchester 3.53 pm to 8.06 am
Penzance 4.22 pm to 8.03 am

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	9:37	6.50	10:16	6 77
Aberdeen	9:58	3.77	10:10	3.86
Avonmouth	2:58	10.85	3:32	11 39
Belfast	7:27	3 01	7.42	3 18
Cardiff	2.42	10 11	3.15	10.53
Devonport	1:47	4.61	2:09	4.77
Dover	7:09	5 88	8:00	5 75
Dublin	8:13	3 75	8:20	3.90
Falmouth	1:09	4.24	1:31	4 58
Glasgow	8:28	4.13	9:05	4.16
Harwich	7:32	3.55	8:20	3 65
Holyhead	6.53	4 78	7:09	5.04
Hull	2:00	6.48	3:02	6.39
Ilfracombe	1:51	7.78	2:25	8.15
King's Lynn	2:06	5 69	2:49	5.57
Leith	10.57	4.86	11:20	4.96
Liverpool	7:26	7.96	7:48	8.29
Lowestoft	5:35	2:30	6.22	2.31
Margate	8:00	4.25	8:52	4 35
Milford Haven	2:19	5.71	2:45	6 00
Newquay	1:07	5.56	1:34	5 81
Oban	2:26	3.03	2:47	3.44
Penzance	0:50	4 55	1:13	4.78
Portland	2:39	1 61	2:54	1.64
Portsmouth	7:33	4.29	8:04	4 11
Shoreham	7:33	5.41	8:06	5.29
Southampton	7:06	4 15	7:36	3.99
Swansea	2:15	7 74	2:50	8.15
Tees	—	—	0:12	4 63
W'ton-on-Nze	7:36	3 69	8:27	3 85

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Thursday: Highest day temp: Penzance, Cornwall, 13C (55F); lowest day max: Little Rissington, Gloucestershire, 5C (41F); highest rainfall: Belfast, Co Down, 0.03in; highest sunshine: Jersey, Channel Islands, 4.9hr

FORECAST

☐ **General:** Showers in many areas. Early rain in Western England and Wales, heavy in the north. Misty in eastern areas but brighter later. Rain in all areas by evening.

Eastern Scotland will start grey and misty but should brighten for a time. Western areas will be wet with heavy showers on hills. It will be wet at first in Northern Ireland and will brighten for a spell before more rain arrives later.

☐ **London, Central S, Central N, SE England, E Midlands:** Cloudy with patchy drizzle. Dry and bright for a time but becoming cloudy with patchy rain later. Wind southeast, light to moderate. Max 12C (54F).

☐ **E Anglia, NE, E England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee:** Grey and misty at first with drizzle. Becoming dry for a time but cloud thickening with patchy rain later. Wind southeast, moderate. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **W Midlands, Channel Isles, SW, NW England, Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands:** Mostly cloudy with rain soon spreading from the west. Rain, heavy on hills. Becoming dry later. Wind southeast, moderate or fresh. Max 12C (54F).

☐ **Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** Rather grey with mist and drizzle. Dry for a time but rain later. Wind southeast, strong to gale. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **Argyll, N Ireland:** Cloudy with rain, heavy on hills. Becoming drier for a time. Wind southeast, fresh. Max 12C (54F).

☐ **NW Scotland:** Rain, heavy at times. Wind south to south-easterly strong to gale. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **Outlook:** Rain clearing south-eastwards on Sunday followed by showers. Then mostly fine.

AROUND BRITAIN

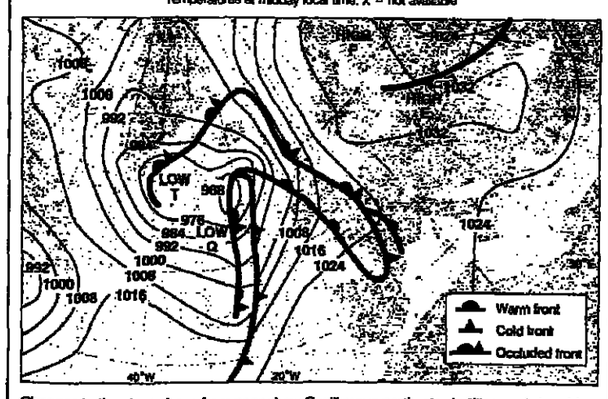
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Anglesey	0.5	-	11	52	b
Aspatria	1.0	-	9	48	b
Aviemore	-	-	8	46	c
Belfast	-	0.03	9	48	c
Birmingham	-	-	7	45	du
Bognor R	-	-	10	50	c
Bournem'th	-	-	10	50	du
Bristol	-	-	9	48	du
Buxton	-	-	5	41	du
Cardiff	-	-	9	48	du
Clacton	-	-	7	45	c
Cleethorpes	X				
Colwyn Bay	-	-	8	46	c
Cromer	-	-	8	46	du
Dunbar	X				
Eastbourne	-	-	9	48	du
Edinburgh	-	-	9	48	du
Eskdalemuir	0.3	-	7	45	c
Exmouth	-	-	11	52	g
Falmouth	0.5	-	12	54	c
Fishguard	1.9	-	8	46	c
Folkestone	-	-	7	45	c
Glasgow	-	0.02	9	48	c
Guernsey	2.9	-	12	54	c
Hastings	-	-	9	48	c
Hayling I.	-	-	10	50	c
Heme Bay	-	-	6	43	du
Hove	X				
Hunstanton	-	-	8	46	c
Ilfracombe	X				
Isle of Man	-	-	9	48	du
Jersey	4.9	-	11	52	b
Kinloss	-	-	9	48	c
Leeds	-	-	7	45	c
Lerwick	0.1	-	8	46	sh
Leuchars	-	-	9	48	du
Littlehmptn	-	-	9	48	c
Liverpool	-	-	8	46	c
London	-	-	9	48	c
Lowestoft	-	-	8	46	du
Manchester	1.0	-	8	46	c
Margate	-	-	7	45	du
Minehead	-	-	9	48	du
Morecambe	0.9	-	8	46	b
Newcastle	-	-	9	48	c
Newquay	-	-	11	52	c
Norwich	-	-	7	45	du
Nottingham	X				
Oxford	-	-	8	46	du
Penzance	1.4	0.02	13	55	r
Plymouth	X				
Poole	-	-	10	50	c
Prestatyn	X				
Ross-o-wye	-	-	6	43	du
Sandown	-	-	11	52	c
Saunts Snd	-	-	11	52	du
Scarboro'	-	-	8	46	du
Shanklin	-	-	10	50	c
Shrewsbury	-	-	7	45	c
Skegness	X				
Southport	-	-	8	46	c
Southsea	-	-	10	50	c
Stornoway	-	-	11	52	c
Swanage	-	-	11	52	c
Teignmouth	-	-	11	52	c
Tiree	1.5	-	10	50	c
Torquay	-	-	11	52	c
Tynemouth	-	0.01	9	48	c
Ventnor	-	-	10	50	c
Weymouth	X	-	11	52	c

ABROAD

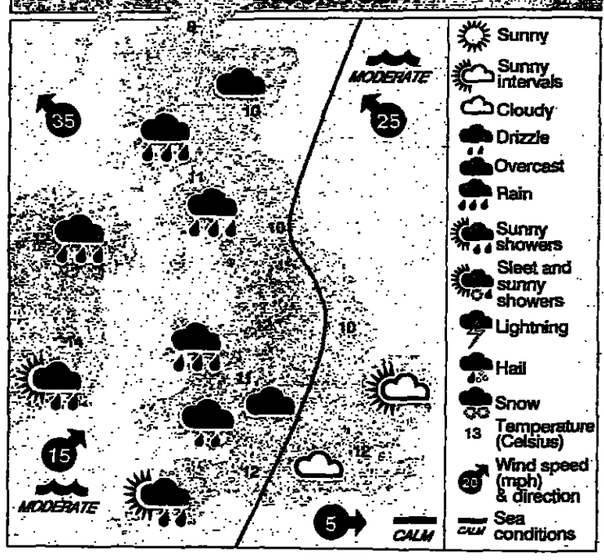
Ajaccio	17	63	s	Cologne	3	37	c
Alcrotiri	18	64	c	Corfu	16	61	s
Alex'dria	21	70	s	C'phagn	4	39	f
Algiers	20	68	s	Dublin	9	48	f
Amst'dm	5	41	c	Dubrovnik	14	57	s
Athens	17	63	f	Faro	17	63	s
B Aires	30	86	f	Florence	12	54	s
Bahrain	21	70	c	Frankfurt	3	37	c
Bangkok	33	91	s	Funchal	19	66	f
Barbados	29	84	f	Geneva	6	43	c
Barcelona	17	63	s	Gibraltar	17	63	f
Beirut	19	66	s	Helsinki	-1	30	c
Belfast	9	48	f	Hong K	23	73	s
Belgrade	7	45	f	Innsbruk	5	41	s
Berlin	-1	30	c	Istanbul	9	48	c
Bermuda	21	70	f	Jeddah	30	86	f
Biarritz	18	64	s	Jo'burg	20	68	s
Borde'x	14	57	s	Karachi	-	-	-
Brussels	8	43	s	L Angels	21	70	s
Budapst	4	39	r	L Palmes	22	72	f
Cairo	22	72	s	Le Touet	6	43	f
Cape Tn	19	66	c	Lisbon	16	61	f
Ch'church	27	81	s	Locarno	7	45	s
Chicago	3	37	f	Luxembg	1	34	c
Luxor	24	75	s	Rio de J	25	77	f
Madrid	9	48	f	Riyadh	19	66	f
Majorca	19	66	s	Rome	14	57	s
Malaga	18	64	f	S Fr'isco	14	57	c
Malta	18	64	r	S Paulo	28	82	c
Melb'rne	20	68	c	Salzburg	2	36	c
Mexico C	19	66	s	Santiago	18	64	f
Miami	26	79	s	Seoul	8	46	s
Milan	7	45	c	St'kholm	-4	25	s
Montreal	-3	18	-	Strasb'rg	3	37	c
Moscow	-9	16	f	Sydney	22	72	c
Munich	3	37	c	Tangier	15	59	c
N Delhi	20	68	s	Tenerife	23	73	f
N York	3	37	s	Tokyo	13	55	s
Nairobi	22	72	f	Toronto	1	34	f
Naples	15	59	s	Tunis	15	59	r
Nice	15	59	s	Valencia	18	64	f
Oslo	-1	30	c	Vanc'ver	9	48	f
Paris	8	46	s	Venice	8	46	c
Peking	9	48	s	Vienna	2	36	c
Perth	22	72	c	Warsaw	-3	27	f
Prague	0	32	c	Wash'ton	4	39	f
Reykjavik	6	43	c	Wel'ngton	17	63	c
Rhodes	18	64	s	Zurich	4	39	c

Temperatures at midday local time. X = not available

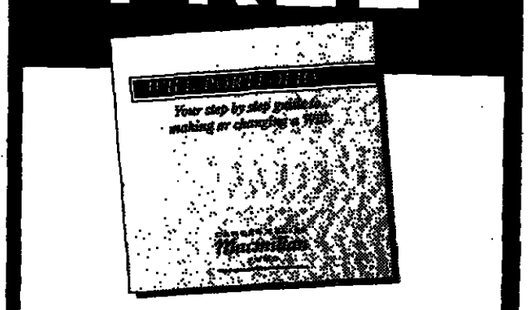


Changes to the chart above from noon: Low Q will move north, slowly filling and absorbing Low T. High F will drift east and intensify. High E will decline and lose its identity

NOON TODAY



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Our City Editor on the battle for Forte

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Jet-set headhunter rides out the turbulence



SPORT 42-48

Jones faces hard task to keep up with past mastery

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook — SATURDAY DECEMBER 2 1995

Housing market shows signs of recovery

A GLIMMER of recovery may yet vindicate the Chancellor's decision not to throw a lifeline to the housing market in his Budget. Banks and building societies gave the go-ahead to 78,000 applications from potential homebuyers, an increase of 5,000 over the previous month, it was announced yesterday. At the same time, Nationwide Building Society reported a "firmer trend in house prices" in November, with a 1.5 per cent rise over the month in its house price index. Prices, however, are still 2.2 per cent lower than in November 1994.

Both sets of statistics follow mortgage rate cuts of 0.2-0.4 per cent, spurred by Kenneth Clarke's refusal to increase tax relief or abolish stamp duty, despite lobbying from building societies and the construction industry. Increased sales of new cars during October also led to a rise in consumer credit. Net lending of £872 million, up from a revised £640 million in September, was the strongest monthly increase since the series began in 1986.

Figures released by the Bank of England yesterday showed that the total number of mortgages approved in October was the highest since February. The value of loans approved totalled £4.8 billion, against £4.4 billion in September and £4.6 billion in October last year. The Bank figures led Ian Shepherdson, an economist with HSBC Markets, to predict a 3-4 per cent increase in house prices for the first half of 1996, although approval figures always contain a percentage of remortgages, where borrowers are swapping their existing loans for a better deal.

Mr Shepherdson said: "Early this year, the new commitment figures pointed to the collapse in prices we saw over the summer. Now they are pointing to a rise in prices next spring, if not sooner." October was seen as a bellwether month for the housing market, as restrictions on mortgage income support came into force. It had been predicted that these would sound the final death knell for the housing market. Yet estate agents report that business is reasonable in what is traditionally a slow period.

James Chapman, operations director of Royal Insurance Property Services which has 430 branches throughout Britain, said: "We would expect the market to be dying, but here are some real quality buyers around."

However, Halifax Building Building Society, due to publish its own house price index on Monday, sounded a note of caution. A spokesman said that there were no signs of recovery, although prices had stabilised.

Adrian Cole, director-general of the Building Societies Association, said: "The housing market is not yet out of the woods of recession. But there are some positive signs. The approvals figures seem to indicate that the housing market low point occured in the summer and that we are now in a period of fragile equilibrium. **Weekend Money, page 29**

BAA plans £4.4bn airports upgrade

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

BAA, the airport operator, plans to spend £4.4 billion over the next decade in improving facilities at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted, it was revealed yesterday.

Among the expenditure plans outlined was £1.3 billion on the new fifth terminal at Heathrow. The terminal is now the subject of one of the most bitterly fought planning inquiries ever held and the success of the application cannot be guaranteed.

Other spending plans include £530 million on redeveloping the central area of Heathrow, £518 million on improvements to Gatwick's two terminals, £176 million on the Heathrow Express, £163 million on a second terminal at Stansted, £83 million on the Piccadilly Line extension and £75 million on facilities to enable future very large aircraft to use existing aprons and taxiways.

In a detailed breakdown of its capital spending plans circulated to airlines, BAA effectively pleaded for leniency in the controls imposed on its future charges.

The level of landing charges BAA can charge is limited under a formula known as "RPI Minus". Four years ago BAA was allowed to charge its customer airlines no more than 8 percentage points below the rate of inflation, or RPI minus eight. This year this has dropped to RPI minus one, which BAA still regards as tough. It hopes to persuade the government that it must be given greater freedom to boost profits to pay for future developments and improvements.

The formula is reviewed every five years and the next review, which includes an investigation by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, will fix the maximum level of airport charges for the period 1997-98 to 2001-02. Before that BAA has to try to convince the regulators that it must be given leeway to invest and to prove that controls affecting its spending plans should, therefore, be as light as possible.

In the half year to September 30, BAA made profits of £303 million. Profits for the whole of the previous year were up 8 per cent at £698 million. Most of this, however, came from the growing number of shops, retail outlets and duty free stores at its seven airports which contributed £513 million compared with £409 million from landing charges. The income from retail is not subject to the strict price control formula imposed on landing charges. This has been cited as the cause of Britain's leading airports resembling giant shopping malls.

BAA, however, insists that only by developing popular shopping facilities can sufficient profits be earned to enable the proposed capital spending targets to be met. In the next five years, the group says, the number of passengers using Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted will rise from 81.1 million this year to more than 94 million in 2000.

Sir John Egan, BAA's chief executive, said: "Our plans reflect confidence in our industry and BAA's determination to create airports to meet the needs of our customers in the 21st century."

"We look forward to a constructive dialogue with our regulator on how this may be achieved."



DAN CHUNG

Cheers: David Thompson lifts a glass to great grandfather Edwin Thompson

Sunshine profits at brewery

THE benefits of a long hot summer and strong sales of take-home beer helped Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries, Britain's largest regional brewer, to a 13.5 per cent rise in full-year profits.

A recovery in margins helped pre-tax profits jump to a record £43.5 million in the 52 weeks to October 1, up from £38.3 million last time, as turnover climbed to £237.3 million (£231.4 million). Profits were boosted by a £3.1 million property gain after the sale of the Crown & Raven hotel chain to Regal Hotels.

David Miller, chairman, said: "The right sort of sun shone in 1995. Throughout the summer, pubs traded well, take-home sales were buoyant, and free-trade business was won." But David Thompson, managing director, gave a note of caution. He said cross-channel "booze-cruises" continued to depress margins of the take-home trade, though the summer heatwave gave a welcome bonus.

"Pubs did well, and those with beer gardens, spectacularly. July and August were very good, though preceded by a poor April and June," he said.

The final dividend is 9.9p (8.6p), payable January 31, making a total of 15.3p (13.9p) for the year.

Tempus, page 28

Second C5 bidder in review call

BY GEORGE SIVELL

UKTV, the Canadian-backed bidder for the Channel 5 licence, has joined Virgin in seeking a judicial review of the decision to award it to another company. UKTV lodged the highest bid for the franchise at £36 million.

John Fairley, chief executive of UKTV, said: "If the process was flawed as to Virgin, then it was flawed as to UKTV."

Virgin alleged that the victorious Channel 5 Broadcasting consortium, led by television guru Greg Dyke, which won the licence with a bid of £22 million, was allowed to enhance its offer after it was filed.

The Independent Television Commission decided that UKTV and Virgin TV, which also bid £22 million, failed the quality threshold for programming.

OFT to carry out BSkyB review

BY ERIC REGULY

THE Director-General of Fair Trading announced yesterday that he will conduct a wide-ranging review of BSkyB's operations to determine whether the satellite broadcaster is abusing its dominant position in the pay-TV market.

The review came after several cable TV companies formally requested the Department of Trade and Industry to refer BSkyB, which is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*, to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. The request was rejected.

John Bridgeman, Director-General, said: "I have decided to take advantage of the flexibility of the informal undertakings to carry out an early review."

The review will take six months. Depending on his findings, Mr Bridgeman may then drop the matter or recommend an MMC referral. The OFT is separately evaluating, under the Restrictive Practices Act, the terms of agreements to televise sport.

BSkyB said it has a good relationship with the "vast majority" of cable operators and will co-operate fully with the Director-General. The company, however, suggested that dissatisfied cable companies may have a hidden agenda. Sam Chisholm, chief executive, said: "The main focus of some cable operators is on using the regulatory process to further their businesses rather than on building their networks and serving their customers."

The Director-General will, among other areas, review the supply of programming to the cable operators and access to signal encryption. BSkyB shares closed at 428½, down 5½p, yesterday.

Same strategy to foil cowboys

BY ROBERT MILLER

A SENIOR Treasury minister has ruled out any significant changes to the way in which the City is regulated and investors are protected from "cowboys".

Angela Knight, financial secretary to the Treasury, also said that restoring investor confidence in the industry in the wake of the personal pensions misselling scandal should be a leading priority. She added that the Government was determined to improve the working of the current regulatory framework, rather than going through the turmoil of trying to put a new system in place.

Speaking at a Society of Financial Advisers' conference in Birmingham yesterday, the minister said: "I know there are rough edges, but it is much better to pull together to sort things out than to throw the baby out with the bathwater and start again."

The cost of maintaining the present system of City watchdogs, according to a report on financial services regulation published last month by the Commons Treasury Select Committee, is around £76 million, compared with £62 million five years ago. Mrs Knight argued, however, that a new system would not produce instant solutions and would have "massive" cost implications.

In its report the Commons Committee recommended that the Treasury should bring all financial services regulation under its wing by relieving the Department of Trade and Industry of its role in monitoring the financial health of insurance companies. The cross-party committee also called on the Treasury to review the role of the Bank of England as prudential supervisor of banking institutions. MPs were particularly critical of the way in which the Bank supervised Barings in the lead up to the £860 million crash of the merchant bank.

Mrs Knight, who has studied the Select Committee's report carefully, said last night: "I am determined that financial regulation in the UK should be effective and efficient. Effective regulation is vital to protect investors. It can do the industry nothing but good, as it increases confidence and that in turn encourages investment."

She added: "From my own business experience I am well aware that over-regulation is a burden, but too little regulation brings in cowboys and downrates the professionalism of the industry."

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKETS

FT-SE 100	3680.4	(+16.1)
Yield	3.90%	
FT-SE A All share	1794.95	(+6.35)
Nikkei	18883.10	(+88.68)
New York:		
Dow Jones	5097.97	(+23.48)*
S&P Composite	607.11	(+1.74)*

FIXED INTEREST

Federal Funds	5¹³/₁₆%*	(6%)
Long Bond	110²⁵/₃₂*	(109²⁷/₃₂)
Yield	6.11%*	(6.14%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	6¹/₁₆%	(6¹/₁₆%)
Ltte long gilt future (Dec)	110²⁵/₃₂	(110²⁹/₃₂)

CURRENCIES

New York:		
£	1.5342*	(1.5315)
London:		
$	1.5355	(1.5305)
DM	2.2168	(2.2139)
FFr	7.6620	(7.6370)
SFr	1.8019	(1.7985)
Yen	155.39	(155.76)
£ Index	82.6	(82.5)
London:		
DM	1.4442*	(1.4472)
FFr	4.9920*	(4.9985)
SFr	1.1740*	(1.1755)
Yen	101.15*	(102.10)
$ Index	94.6	(99.9)

Tokyo close Yen 102.10

OIL

Brent 15-day (Feb)	$16.85	($16.75)
London close	$386.45	($387.85)

* denotes midday trading price

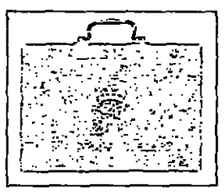
WEEKEND MONEY



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INSURANCE



33 The cost of cover for living dangerously

INVESTMENT 1

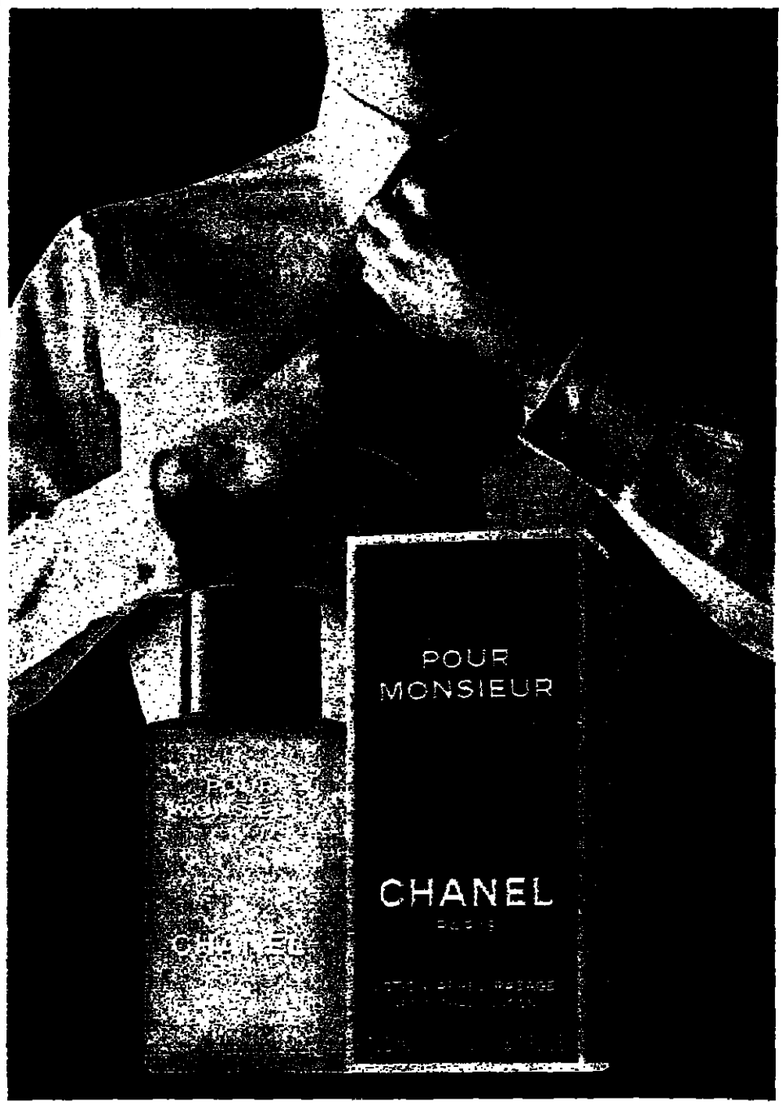
35 UK and US. Links still bind the two markets



INVESTMENT 2



37 What your Tessa will be worth. The new deals



POUR MONSIEUR
ELEGANCE IS TIMELESS
CHANEL

Forte poised to fire its defence against Granada

Give or take, Granada's £3.4 billion takeover bid for Forte would appear to be the only game in town. The chips, played with by moguls but paid for by shareholders, are stacked high. Where high rollers gather, class entertainment is invariably assured. The takeover clock, courtesy of Granada's offer document, has already started ticking, today being day nine in this 60-day corporate tournament.

It is a fascinating contest and, for City advisers, a lucrative event. The smell of money mingles with the fragrance of megalomania: the stuff of which multi-billion pound/dollar amalgams are made.

Those not overly familiar with moguls and their mannerisms might assume that takeover battles are dour affairs, waged by men in dark grey suits, flanked by accountants adorned in light grey. Not a bit of it. Moguls usually exhibit macho tendencies. The mogul who wishes to acquire a business created, or run, by another mogul, has the advantage of surprise. In a hostile deal, a sum of money is put on the table. Everyone around the table knows this is merely the first offer; something akin to the initial stages of a bartering operation.

Sometimes moguls barter; sometimes they don't. Should they barter and strike a deal, the arrangement is known as an "agreed" takeover. This means that the table is blessed with an agreed sum of money. The mogul who has agreed to sell out "recommends" the offer. The purchasing mogul pays tribute to the management of the company being acquired and the mogul who recommended other shareholders to sell is often invited to join the board or play an ongoing role as a "consultant."

Agreed bids are perceived as more sensible than hostile bids because, before the bartering starts in ernest, the moguls can discuss their respective operations and chat about strategy and such-like. Agreed bids are not as glamorous as hostile bids, nor are they as profitable for City advisers. The hostile bidder realises that there is no need to discuss strategy with the management of the "offeree" company. Such confidence often relates to the fact that many moguls are under the impression that they are geniuses. In fairness to moguls, they are keenly encouraged in such beliefs by City advisers and other hangers on.

Silken-tongued merchant bankers, cheque-twirling clearing bankers, turn-seeking fund managers, Savile Row-suited spin doctors and cliché-riddled financial journalists all play their peculiar little roles. One way or another they egg moguls, magnates, tycoons, entrepreneurs and their ilk on, and on, and on; sometimes to the bid too far. Such was the scenario in the Eighties when the likes of Alan Bond (Bond Corporation), John Gunn (British & Commonwealth) and John Ashcroft (Coloroll), to name but three, walked, and then stopped walking, on water.

But I digress. Back to moguls and hostile bids. An initial sum, the sighting shot, so to speak, is



MELVYN MARCKUS

placed on the table and then the moguls insult each other. In Granada's £3.4 billion takeover bid for Forte — a calculation that excludes Forte's £1.3 billion of debt — the insult period has proved particularly memorable. Gerry Robinson, chairman designate of Granada, appears obsessed with the fact that one of Sir Rocco Forte's pastimes is shooting. Much has been made of this, for reasons best known to Robinson and his advisers. Should a man who shoots pheasants be toppled? Should he be toppled by a man obsessed by the fact that other men shoot pheasants? Fascinating!

Granada's offer document focused on Forte's "poor performance" which, it claims, arose from Forte's "misguided strategy," "failure to meet targets", "failure to exploit good brands" and "changes in direction." Sir Rocco has countered that Robinson is a "cyclical surf-rider" and has accused his adversary of taking advantage of companies on the upswing of a business cycle to feed his "megalomania."

As the two swap such niceties, the City waits on Forte's defence document which, as the ticking clock dictates, must be produced by the end of this week. Forte's document may, or may not, include a profit forecast for 1995-96.

The concensus among City analysts is for pre-tax profits of around £175 million, indicating earnings per share of 13p. All things considered, it would be surprising if Forte's profits are not struck north of this. More interesting are analysts' estimates of an outcome of some £240 million for 1996-97 to give earnings per share of 18p. Forte's shares at 342p are currently showing a 16p premium over Granada's terms, a premium that reflects the City's thinking about moguls and sighting shots.

Robinson's tête à têtes with Granada's principal shareholders in Scotland are understood to have gone well. Key to the eventual outcome of the bid may well lie with Mercury Asset Management, which holds a 12.75 per cent stake in Forte and a not dissimilar block in Granada. It is unlikely that Granada embarked on its £3.4 billion spree without sounding out MAM, although Robinson refuses to comment on discussions with fund managers before or after the bid.

Other institutions with stakes of more than 3 per cent in Forte include Clydesdale Bank (5.3 per cent), Capital International, Prudential and Gartmore.

Robinson insists that Granada's budget hotels, motorway service operations and contract-catering interests are proof enough of the company's ability to manage Forte. Cynics argue that there is little if any synergy between the two companies. Robinson, according to Forte's camp, is intent on cashing in on the upswing in the hotel cycle via a bid that has been launched two years too late.

Analysts also point out that Granada's grand strategy runs contrary to an international trend which has seen hotel conglomerates demerge in order to permit core businesses to focus more effectively. Marriott, ITT, New World, based in Hong Kong and Hilton, are all cited on this count.

Forte's camp is clearly set to challenge Robinson's vision of creating a new UK conglomerate. Granada has criticised Forte's retention of its "trophy" hotel interests such as the Savoy stake. But is Forte merely a "trophy" company for Granada?

First fall in industrial activity for three years

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

BRITISH manufacturing activity fell in November for the first time in three years, pointing to a further easing of inflationary pressure from industry and fuelling expectations of an interest-rate cut in the near future.

The latest soundings of purchasing managers showed manufacturers running down stock levels which had risen because of slow sales. This means a rocky few months ahead for manufacturing output. The good news is for inflation; fragile demand means that it will be harder for manufacturers to pass on any cost increases, meaning lower producer and retail prices.

The stock market rose sharply, interpreting the evidence of a slowdown as heralding a base rate cut. Many in the City expect a 0.5 per cent cut on December 13 when the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, meets Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England.

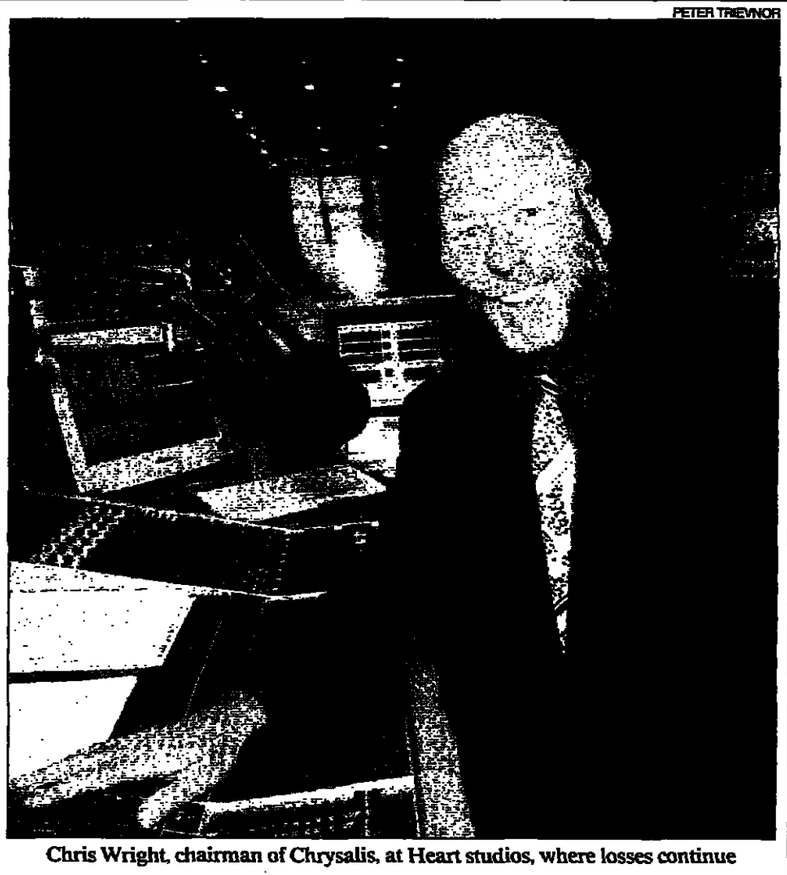
Adam Cole, an economist at James Capel, disagreed. He argued that "further evidence that the Chancellor's growth forecasts are too optimistic is required before rates come down. This points to early next year as the most likely time for a rate reduction". The purchasing managers' index stood at 49.6 in November compared with 50.5 in October. Analysts said that the dip below 50 may show that the trend in manufacturing is now towards contraction.

Meanwhile, trade figures for September showed Britain's visible trade gap narrowing with the rest of the world to £972 million. However, economists pointed out that this was due largely to a jump in exports to North America that month.

Jonathan Loynes of HSBC Markets said September's improvement "is likely to be short-lived and can be viewed as little more than a respite from a worrying trend." Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, said: "There is no room for complacency, as the trend suggests that the whole world visible deficit is widening."

☐ Manufacturing activity in America fell for the fourth straight month in November and the rate of decline accelerated from October. US purchasing managers said yesterday. The National Association of Purchasing Management said that employment in the manufacturing sector fell for the ninth consecutive month and that, while inventories declined, the rate of decline was slower than in October.

PETER TREVNOR



Chris Wright, chairman of Chrysalis, at Heart studios, where losses continue

Start-up costs slow Chrysalis

THE cost of investing in new businesses deepened the underlying losses at Chrysalis, the music and media group headed by Chris Wright (Eric Reguly writes).

Start-up costs of the two Heart radio stations, a film distribution business and the Echo record label led to an operating loss of £7 million in the year to August 31, against a loss of £4.2 million the year before. A one-time profit of £11.5 million on the sale of assets, notably Chrysalis's 19.5 per cent stake in Metro Radio, allowed the company to report a pre-tax profit of £1 million, compared to a loss of £3.9 million.

Chrysalis warned shareholders to expect further losses as money is pumped into businesses such as the new Heart radio station in London and Galaxy Radio, the regional dance music station in Wales and the West of England. Heart and Galaxy, it said, "will generate significant losses during a period of intense marketing activity as the stations are established."

A final dividend of 2.75p will be paid on April 9. There was no dividend last year. The shares closed unchanged at 346p.

Brierley is set for sale of Brown Shipley

BY PATRICIA TEHAN
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

GUINNESS Peat Group, Sir Ron Brierley's investment vehicle, is close to a sale of Brown Shipley Stockbroking (BSS), the private client stockbroker, with Albert E Sharp, the Birmingham-based broker, thought most likely to buy.

Sharp's bid, estimated at £5.5 million to £6 million, is believed to be higher than any other offer for the business.

GPG put the stockbroker on the market only two and a half years after it bought it for £5.6 million. Since then the business has been restructured, through the acquisition of Stirling Hendry, the Scottish broker which has offices in Glasgow, Inverness and Dundee, and the sale soon after its acquisition, of the asset management business and unit trust businesses.

This is the second time the firm has been put up for sale since its acquisition by GPG from Kredietbank Luxembourgeoise. It last tried to sell BSS 18 months ago, when the price-tag was closer to £10 million. Since then, business has turned down.

In the first half of this year BSS suffered a profits fall after stock market trading volumes failed to match the levels of the first half of 1994.

The sale of Brown Shipley Stockbroking Limited includes Brown Shipley and three regional stockbrokers, Stirling Hendry, Roy James, based in Birmingham, and Wilshere Baldwin, operating from Leicester.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Bankers Trust wins $69m lawsuit

BANKERS TRUST NEW YORK said the commercial court of the High Court in London ruled in the bank's favour in a $69.2 million lawsuit against the Indonesian company PT Dharmala Sakti Sejahtera. Bankers Trust had sued Dharmala and the court ruled that Bankers Trust must be reimbursed for its legal costs.

The case involved swaps contracts between Bankers Trust and Dharmala that were entered into during the early part of 1994. Bankers Trust said the contracts were made under the terms of the International Swaps Dealers Association master agreement. Bankers Trust, however, maintains that Dharmala sought to escape from the contracts by alleging that Bankers Trust misrepresented the trade and breached duties it assumed to advise Dharmala.

Cater Allen setback

SHARES in Cater Allen, the financial services group, closed 10p lower at 443p after a fall in pre-tax profits for the six months to October 31 to £9.4 million (£9.58 million). David White, deputy chairman, said money markets had not been as favourable as in the same period last year. Earnings fell to 21.4p (23.7p) and an 9p (8p) interim dividend has been declared. He predicted a more active money market over the next six months and said the company's offshore business would continue to grow.

Blue Boar buyout

BLUE BOAR MOTORWAYS, the country's largest independent motorway service-area operator, has been acquired by managers and employees for £25 million. Its sites are on M1 at Watford Gap and Rothersthorpe, near Northampton, with a third, newly opened Annandale Water, on M74 in Scotland. The company has 560 full and part-time employees. The buyout was led by Dennis Watson, managing director, and Gloria Stephenson, personnel director.

Glaxo sells Hazeline

GLAXO WELLCOME, the pharmaceuticals company, said it had sold Hazeline, its consumer products business in Singapore, to Unilever for £95 million in cash. Hazeline, which manufactures and markets skin care items such as moisturisers and cleansers, reported an operating profit of £4.1 million on sales of £32.5 million for the year to December 1994. Glaxo said it is selling the company, inherited when it bought Wellcome this year, as a non-core activity.

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Money Marketing, 23rd November 1995

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Fall in land cost aids McCarthy

CHEAPER land is boosting the margins of McCarthy & Stone, the sheltered housing group, which doubled pre-tax profit for the year to £9.2 million despite a fall in volumes (Carl Mortished writes).

Reservations and completions were up on last year but John McCarthy, chairman, said he was cautious about the trading climate.

McCarthy sold 915 units in the year to August 31, down from 936, but gross margins rose from 27 per cent to 33 per cent, due mainly to reduced land costs. The company finished the year with 1,141 completed units, up by a third, and resumes payment of a dividend with 2p for the year. Net cash balances were £8 million and shareholders' funds were £90.9 million.

Tempus, page 28

Ascot goes on the trail for acquisitions

ASCOT HOLDINGS, the property, pubs and hotels group, formerly Control Securities, is seeking acquisitions, having completed several disposals (Sarah Bagnall writes).

Howard Dyer, chairman and chief executive, said: "We will continue with our strategy of reducing borrowings through divestments, while at the same time examining acquisition opportunities."

Mr Dyer's remarks accompanied a rise in pre-tax profits to £8.8 million (£2.1 million) in the six months to September 30. The increase reflected a rise in operating profits from £7.8 million to £11.2 million together with several one-off factors. Disposals cut net debt to £65.1 million, leaving gearing of 93 per cent against 154 per cent six months ago. Net assets rose to £70.2 million. There is no dividend.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.16	2.00
Austria Sch	16.62	15.12
Belgium Fr	48.61	44.31
Canada $	2.195	2.036
Cyprus Cypf	0.741	0.686
Denmark Kr	9.20	8.40
Finland Mkk	7.17	6.52
France Fr	8.08	7.43
Germany Dm	2.37	2.16
Greece Dr	386.00	361.00
Hong Kong $	12.50	11.50
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Israel Shk	5.1200	4.4700
Italy Lira	2556.00	2401.00
Japan Yen	170.60	154.60
Malta	0.592	0.537
Netherlds Gld	2.638	2.408
New Zealand $	2.50	2.28
Norway Kr	10.38	9.56
Portugal Esc	243.50	225.00
S Africa Rd	ret.	5.37
Spain Pta	196.00	183.00
Sweden Kr	10.69	9.89
Switzerland Fr	1.94	1.75
Turkey Lira	refer	79996.0
USA $	1.630	1.500

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

FOR Kenneth Clarke, the accusation that his budget was boring is water off a duck's back. More serious, he knows, will be if there is no dividend in the form of lower interest rates. The City, business and the Tory party are all looking for a base-rate cut. If the economic data over the next 10 days show the economy still in the throes of a slowdown, they will get one. And Clarke's slow-burner of a budget will begin to look a lot more convincing.

Business Focus in The Sunday Times tomorrow

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The British Investment Trust PLC.

The British Investment Trust aims to achieve long term capital growth from a portfolio of international investments and secure for shareholders regular increases in dividend.

Company Half-Year Financial Highlights
as at 30th September (unaudited)

	1995	1994
Net Asset Value Per Share	253p	231p
Ordinary Shareholders' Funds	£789m	£722m
Dividend Per Share	2.2p	2.1p

To: The Secretary, The British Investment Trust PLC, Donaldson House, 97 Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh EH12 5HD.
Please send me a copy of the 1995 Interim Report.
Name _____
Address _____
_____ Postcode _____
TIM. 2.12

Edinburgh FUND MANAGERS PLC
Edinburgh Fund Managers plc, Donaldson House, 97 Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh EH12 5HD

Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. The value of shares and income from them can fall as well as rise and investors may not get back the amount invested. Regulated by IMRO

هكذا من الأصل

A WORKING WEEK FOR: DAVID NORMAN

Jet-set headhunter rides out the turbulence

A six-figure salary and six-figure bonus limit the sympathy that Jon Ashworth is able to muster for one of Britain's leading recruiters

ADRIAN BROOKS



David Norman, in front of *The Intellect and Valour of Britain*, is distressed by the British inclination to denigrate success and be satirical about it

Monday
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THERE are times when David Norman must wish he was back driving round San Francisco in his Volkswagen Beetle. Fresh out of Eton, and a dab hand at rackets and tennis, he worked in a supermarket and did the rounds as a travelling salesman. It was California in the 1960s. Life was fun.

In England, in 1995, life is not quite so much fun. Norman is locked in an unseemly tussle with his former comrade-in-arms, Miles Broadbent, the other half of Norman Broadbent International (NBI), one of Britain's better-known headhunting firms. Broadbent has announced his intention to retire in February, when he turns 60. Norman has taken charge until a successor is appointed. Simple enough, you might think.

But it is far from simple. Broadbent, it emerges, is gagged from talking to the press. He is not allowed to discuss his imminent retirement. Norman insists, at first, that their parting has "not been acrimonious", but does involve the usual difficulties associated with a change of senior personnel. Broadbent gets wind of this, and insists that the reference to their parting "not being acrimonious" be struck out. Most peculiar. Broadbent, one can deduce, is not about to be sent on his way with the customary gold carriage clock.

This is not the end of Norman's troubles. He recently boarded the morning Concorde flight to New York with the ink scarcely dry on a deal to buy Goodman Graham, an information technology recruitment specialist, for a tidy £7 million. "I sat next to the chief executive of a multinational company who is in the midst of looking for a global IT director," he tells me, declining to name his fellow passenger. Norman could anticipate a fee of £80,000 for handling such an assignment, and has every reason to lick his lips. It would certainly pay for a few more trips on Concorde.

But headhunting is a fickle business. By coincidence, I establish that his fellow passenger was Martin Sorrell, chief executive of WPP, the world's biggest advertising combine. Worse, it seems that the post of global IT director has already been filled. Norman and Sorrell were at Harvard Business School together, but the connection proved fruitless on this occasion.

Let no one tell you that headhunting does not pay. Norman earned £679,000 in the past financial year, putting him well ahead of captains of industry running multimillion-pound organisations. Gerry Robinson of Granada, locked in his £3.4 billion struggle for Forte, earned just £602,000 at the last count. Norman's package included a bonus of £289,000. Headhunters charge between a quarter and a third of the first year's package for their services.

Norman would argue that he is worth every penny. He secured Sir Ian MacGregor for British Steel in the days when it was losing £750 million a year, and later found Howard Davies to replace Sir John Banham as Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry. He led the search for Davies's successor, and came up with the unusual choice of Adair Turner. Boardroom shake-outs at Cable and Wireless and BT will have Norman and his rivals slavering like wolves.

"One of the things that always most distresses me is the British inclination to denigrate success," says Norman, 54, and standing 6ft 1in in his immaculate brogues. "We're very good at it. It's fashionable to be satirical about success, and also to be forever admiring of the gifted amateur, who doesn't appear to have to apply his talent too strongly to be successful. I admire more the American attitude, which is just encourage talent for all it's worth. Stretch it to the limit, and apply it to the task at hand, and you'll then succeed."

> "I admire the American attitude — encourage talent"

Norman fell into headhunting by accident after a long career in industry, and has all the right connections in a profession where the old school tie is all-important. He was Captain of House at Eton, holds an MBA from Harvard, and is an accomplished sportsman, playing rackets and tennis, and enjoying a golfing handicap of 12. His great uncle, Montagu Norman, was Governor of the Bank of England from 1920 to 1944. His grandfather, Ronald Norman, was chairman of both the BBC and London County Council. His father, Mark, who died 11 months ago, was past chairman of Gallaher and Wiggins Teape, and enjoyed close ties with the National Trust.

It was the British Steel search that earmarked Norman for greater things. He joined Russell Reynolds, another headhunter, from Norcros, the conglomerate, in 1977, and set about finding a troubleshooter for British Steel. Sir Ian MacGregor, a Scottish engineer working in America, was more than up to the task.

"He fundamentally changed the way that nationalised industry was run in this country, and gave a lot of new pointers to British business about the way new management concepts should be applied," says Norman. "It had all sorts of ramifications for the executive search industry: the fact that Government was using executive search to bring the most talented, relevant, people for one of the biggest jobs in this country."

Norman was back pulling the strings when Howard Davies joined the CBI, but insists he had no hand in his subsequent appointment as Deputy Governor of the Bank of England. "We had nothing whatever to do with Howard Davies moving from the CBI to the Bank of England. He was directly approached and directly moved, although I, of course, know Howard very well." Norman was at the CBI conference to observe his latest protégé, Adair Turner, in action. Britain, he insists, is not lacking in talent. "It's all about achieving a competitiveness in the global economy of the world. Do we have the brains, the applications to do it? Yes we do. We've certainly got the brains. I think one of the biggest challenges in this country is then to apply those brains to the task at hand."

By everyday standards, Norman leads a fabled life. He has an apartment in Belgravia and a 140-acre estate in Hampshire, complete with its own squash and tennis courts, and golf driving range. There is a home in Portugal. He and his wife, Diana, have three daughters and a son, Jonathan, who is currently with J P Morgan in New York.

But life does not always run smoothly, as current events suggest, and Norman's story is not complete without a reference to the Charles Barker affair. Charles Barker, Britain's oldest advertising and public relations business, bought NBI for £9.3 million in 1986 — not a bad deal, one might think. But it agreed to take only half NBI's profits, leaving the rest in a pool for executives. Headhunters like their bonuses. The upshot was that Miles Broadbent earned £622,053 in 1988 — almost as much as the total distribution to shareholders. Perhaps he does not need the gold carriage clock.

Norman, who became chairman and chief executive of Charles Barker, duly renamed BNB Resources, attracted the wrath of the shareholders. To this day, some find it hard to forgive. One unflatteringly describes him as: "A man of great charm, very well disguised, and mind-boggling arrogance, less well disguised." Others simply say he is fond of self-promotion.

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Norman has little time to dwell upon such gibes. His week is the usual headhunter's whirl of dinners, meetings and jet-set travel. He is forever flying to New York or Chicago — NBI has offices in both — and has just returned from a two-day hop to Frankfurt and Paris. "I always fly British Airways," he says. "They jolly well look after you." He holds a BA premier card, guaranteeing the red carpet wherever he goes. No coincidence, perhaps, that Lord King sits on the NBI board.

For all his Englishness, Norman's mother is American, and America runs like a motif through his life. As a student in the early 1960s, he drove from coast to coast in his VW Beetle, and ended up working on a checkout counter in San Francisco. He did a stint with Merrill Lynch on Wall Street, then returned to California to work as a travelling salesman. "I would drive across the Bay Bridge at five o'clock in the morning and visit the bakeries."

Whatever the tensions at NBI, Norman appears outwardly confident that all will work out for the best. As he puts it: "I am not a short-term operator, and what I really much aspire to seeing happen is that Norman Broadbent International will, over the next five years, emerge as the company most respected in the major centres of the world for top-level executive search, in the same way that McKinsey is in the field of top strategic consulting."

The weeks ahead could prove highly entertaining.

HIDDEN ASSETS

Rome inspires Baltic home with foundations in the sea

Philip Pangalos looks at the new base of the world's oldest shipping market

Three-and-a-half years after an IRA bomb struck terror in the heart of the City, the Duke of Kent inaugurated a new and fitting home for a revitalised Baltic Exchange, the world's oldest and premier shipping market.

The Baltic Exchange — motto: "Our word is our bond" — traces its origins back to the original Virginia & Baltick Coffee House, where merchants, shipowners and ship managers would meet in London's Threadneedle Street as far back as 1744. The 18th-century merchants met in London coffee houses to make arrangements and draw up agreements for the transportation of goods by sailing ships.

Their 20th-century counterparts, led by Jim Buckley, chief executive, communicate electronically, are concerned with commodities, some of which were unknown 250 years ago, and arrange for them to be transported by bulk carrier and oil tanker.

The Baltic generates huge amounts of money for the City from fees paid for foreign-owned goods being transported from one country to another by a vessel which is neither owned nor flagged by Britain. The Exchange handles more than half of the world's bulk chartering business and London is dominant where ship sale and purchase contracts are concerned.

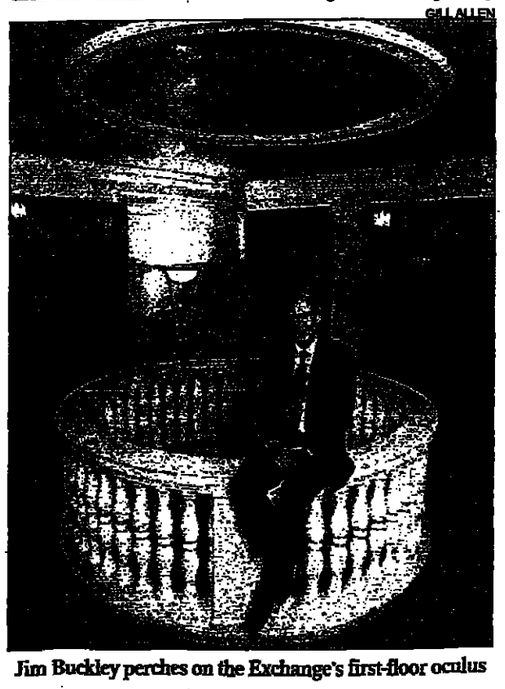
The new Baltic Exchange at 38 St Mary Axe is yards from its previous home. The new Exchange, which was opened to members in May, contains treasures and artefacts, and has fine architectural points and historical links with commodity trading and shipping.

The Grade II listed building was erected in 1923 as the City headquarters of Spillers Industries and is a classic example of the work of the Edwardian architect Sir Edwin Cooper. Special architectural merit is attached to the ground-floor entrance hall and reception, offices on the first and second floors and an outstanding mahogany panelled boardroom.

The previous and original St Mary Axe site, the Baltic's home since 1903, was devastated by an IRA bomb in April 1992 that killed three people and destroyed or severely damaged much of the 13,500 square feet in the old marble-clad Exchange with its walnut floor.

The new St Mary Axe building was bought by

GILL ALLEN



Jim Buckley perches on the Exchange's first-floor oculus

Inchcape for its headquarters from Spillers 40 years ago. It was sold to Trafalgar House in 1987. The Baltic bought the refurbished 41,500sq ft building a year ago, swapping it for the old site and about £2.7 million. It has since spent a further £2 million.

Sir Edwin Cooper's inspiration for the building came from classical Roman architecture. The palato sicilia marble reception area has been restored, as have the fine decorative features seen in the mouldings and the marble oculus in the first-floor balcony above the main reception hall. A staircase at the front of the building is new, as are two oak-panelled lifts. Externally, the Portland stone is embellished and there are ironwork panels on the second-floor exterior. Original "hideous" strip lighting was replaced by art deco copies based on Sir Edwin's designs.

At the centre of an impressive boardroom sits a huge table and panelling in rare Cuban timber, with a carved frieze band in limewood. The chimney breast is panelled with deep, lime-carved drops and swags showing fruits, a windmill and a sailing ship, reflecting the trades of Spillers. Stained glass windows show the coats of arms of various cities.

There are also meeting rooms, including the Churchill room, which includes a portrait of the former Prime Minister and a foundation stone that he laid in the old Exchange in 1955, as well as an elegant long case clock, dated circa 1700.

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A100

STOCK MARKET  MICHAEL CLARK

New high for index as rumours boost oil shares

A LATE flurry of activity among the big oil producers enabled the rest of the equity market to end the week on a high note.

Reports, later denied, that King Fahd of Saudia Arabia had died, pushed oil prices sharply higher on world markets and had a favourable knock-on effect on shares of the oil companies.

It was reported that the 73-year-old King Fahd had been admitted to hospital after feeling unwell and was currently undergoing tests. Despite the later denial, the rumours gave a much needed fillip to the sector. **BP** rose 10½p to 525p, **Shell** 12p to 817p, and **Lasmo** 1½p to 163p. Brokers calculated that the rise on the price of BP was worth 3.5 points on the index. In the event, the FT-SE 100 index finished at its best of the day, with a rise of 16.1 points to its highest level ever of 3,680.4.

Prices had started the day on a flat note, reflecting a 30-point fall overnight in New York. But confidence returned as the Dow Jones reclaimed most of that fall in resumed trading last night.

There was heavy turnover in **Grand Metropolitan**, the food and drink group, just 24 hours after the group unveiled a small decline in profits last year.

SBC Warburg and Cazenove jointly placed a total of 18 million shares with various clients at 431p. The shares formed part of a 52-million parcel of shares belonging to the group's employee share scheme and purchased by SBC Warburg. It stretched turnover in the shares to 75.5 million.

Heavy turnover was also recorded in **Asda**, the supermarket chain, as the price rose 3p to 104p with more than 6 million shares traded. In recent weeks there has been talk of a possible bid from **Boots**, 10p up at 576p. Most brokers would be happy to dismiss that idea, but many of them are convinced there is something going on.

The news that the Office of Fair Trading is to investigate **BSkyB**'s position in the pay television market hit the shares. They finished the session 38p down at 397p, wiping out all this week's gains. The inquiry will focus on the supply of programming to cable companies. It follows complaints by several of the cable companies themselves.



John McCarthy and Matthew Thorne at McCarthy & Stone

Earlier in the week, BSkyB announced it had clinched a £125 million deal to televise exclusively the Endsleigh Football League. The group already has the rights to screen the Premier League. Brokers said the inquiry had come as a surprise.

As to be expected, early attention focused on **British Biotech**, this week's high-flyer. It surged above the £20 level, double the amount it started the week at. On Thursday, the price climbed £5 to finish at £15.01, with brokers claiming the shares still have further to run.

This followed news of positive clinical trials carried out on its new cancer treatment showing a success rate of at least 25 per cent. It is reported that overnight in New York the price touched $67, or £49.50, such was the clamour for the shares. Back in London, the price eventually settled 127p higher at £16.75 as less than 2 million changed hands, valuing the company at more than £800 million. The warrants also leapt 140p to £11.55.

Glaxo Wellcome marked time at 872p after disposing of its Singapore consumer products business, Hazeline, to Unilever for £95 million. **Unilever** rose 8p to £12.75.

It was inevitable that the interest in British Biotech would also feed through to other emerging drug companies. **Cortechs International** rose 9p to 171p, **Celltech** 53p to 602p, **Chiroscience** 15p to 309p and **Oxford Molecular** 10p to 258p.

Proteus soared 35p to 144p on news that it had signed a licensing agreement with **SmithKline Beecham**, unchanged at 694½p, covering its NISV vaccine. **Peptide Therapeutics**, this week's newcomer, advanced another 13p to 251p, stretching its lead since trading started on Thursday to 31p.

Intercare marked time at 50p following the appointment this week of John Parker as chief executive. He replaces Peter Cowen, who resigned after buying out the group's optical business.

McCarthy & Stone, the retirement home builder, firmed 3p to 68p after electing to pay its first dividend in three years. It came as the group reported a 23 per cent rise in pre-tax profits last year to £9.2 million. John McCarthy, chairman, says he is optimistic about prospects despite the dull backdrop to the housing market, which received no boost from the Budget.

Spring Ram, the bathroom and kitchen equipment supplier, rallied 1½p to 20p in the wake of a profits warning earlier this week. A number of directors have taken advantage of the weakness in the price to top-up their holdings. First-time trading in **CMG**, the management services group, got off to an encouraging start. Offered at 290p, the shares started life at 334p and briefly touched 346½p before closing at 339p, a premium of 49p, as more than 5 million changed hands.

□ **GILT-EDGED**: The yield curve steepened for the third day in a row as the short end of the market outperformed longer-dated issues. Shorts have been buoyed by the prospects of a cut in interest rates while longs have been concerned about the upward revision of the PSBR.

Prices generally edged higher in early trading, taking their lead from firmer performances overnight by German bunds and US Treasury bonds.

In the futures pit, the March series of the Long Gilt closed £3/16 better at £109 23/32 as 49,000 contracts were completed.

In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2013 was five ticks harder at £102 7/32, while among shorter-dated issues Treasury 8 per cent 2000 rose £7/32 to £104 13/16.

□ **NEW YORK**: Blue chips extended their gains on Wall Street and by midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 23.48 points higher at 5,097.97.

Full-year figures from Hanson on Thursday failed to live up to expectations. Even ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the company's broker, has been forced to reduce its pre-tax profit estimate for this year from £1.6 billion to £1.32 billion, a move which is sure to be followed by others. It left the share 10p lower at 185p.

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

	Current price	Week's change	
British Biotech	£16.75	+678p	Positive clinical trials
South Wales Elecity	£11.08	+81p	Rejects offer from Welsh Water
Calderburn	49p	-16p	Third profits warning
Vodafone	233½p	+15½p	Brokers visit
Capital Radio	513p	+46p	Further consideration of figures
British Aerospace	833p	+46p	Stake in Orange
ASW Holdings	102p	-53p	Profits warning
De La Rue	643p	-70p?	Set to drop out of FT-SE 100
Wolves & Dudley	551p	+31p	Record profits

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	5097.97 (+23.48)
S&P Composite	607.11 (+1.74)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	18883.10 (+88.68)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	9862.55 (-49.21)
Amsterdam:	
EOE Index	477.77 (-0.34)
Sydney:	
AO	2163.30 (+4.5)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	2260.66 (+17.83)
Singapore:	
Straits	2130.51 (+2.40)
Brussels:	
General	8063.46 (+66.77)
Paris:	
CAC-40	1820.91 (-7.37)
Zurich:	
SKA Gen	707.20 (+5.90)
London:	
FT 30	2670.6 (+4.2)
FT 100	3680.4 (+16.1)
FT-SE Mid 250	3963.7 (+4.6)
FT-SE-A 350	1821.5 (+6.7)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100	1457.96 (+3.94)
FT A All-Share	1794.95 (+6.35)
FT Non Financials	1887.87 (+3.79)
FT Fixed Interest	114.12 (+0.19)
FT Govt Secs	95.65 (+0.23)
Bargains	31037
SEAQ Volume	836.5m
USM (Datastrm)	191.06 (+1.01)
US$	1.5310 (+0.0020)
German Mark	2.2123 (+0.0029)
Exchange Index	82.6 (+0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.1795
£:SDR	1.0325
RPI	149.8 Oct (3.2%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	148.7 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Abtrust Hi Inc C (100)	98	...
Arlon Props	9	...
BZW Eqts Tesco Elt	295	...
Benfield & Rea	103	...
CMG (290)	339	...
Cash Conv Int	26	...
Cox Insurance	110	...
David Glass (60)	68	+ 2
East Surrey NV	448	...
Gardner (L)	143	- 2
Heritage Baths (125)	171	+ 5
Hoare Govett Sml C	96½	...
Jasmin	103	- 3
London Town	80	...
Martin Currie Japan	94	...
Martin Currie Jp Wt	30½	+ ½
Peptide Thrptcs (200)	251	+ 13
Premium Undrtg C	125	...
Revelation Plcc	100	- 5
Schroder Asia Pc	99	...
Tom Cobleigh	216	+ 1
Trocadero	44	+ 1
Vero Group	272	- 3

RIGHTS ISSUES

Allied Leis n/p (34)	7	...
Cordiant n/p (60)	30½	...
Frport Leis n/p (100)	13	...
Mayborn n/p (210)	38	...
Pilkington n/p (155)	37	...
Roxspur n/p (3)	½	...
Snst & Vine n/p (97)	10	- ½

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

MAID	274p (+39p)
Biotec Inv	270p (+32p)
Chiroscience	309p (+17p)
Bank Scotland	285p (+13p)
Scotia	588p (+25p)
Unipalm	775p (+25p)

FALLS:

Weir	201p (-12p)
De La Rue	643p (-17p)
WH Smith	423p (-11p)
Huntigh Tec	775p (-18p)
Cater Allen	443p (-10p)
Amersham	874p (-24p)

Closing Prices Page 41

TEMPUS

Drug overdose

THE spectacular rise of British Biotechnology shares has ignited the sector in much the same way that the flotation of America's Netscape earlier this year propelled the fledgling Internet industry. Biotech shares added almost half their value again on Thursday and kept going yesterday, closing in London at £16.75, four times their lowest price for the year.

Biotech's climb is surprising, founded as it was on the clinical trial of a cancer drug which may never reach the market, but the share price surge of Biotech's smaller rivals is positively baffling. Celltech, Chiroscience and Scotia all made significant gains.

While there are signs that the sector is shedding its casino image, the shares are still best known for their roller-coaster performance. Typically, such companies make no money and their share prices rise and fall on the basis of rumour and the results of clinical trials and their success or failure in achieving regulatory approval for drugs. Because the marketing of drugs is hideously expensive, biotech companies are also at the financial mercy of larger companies who demand their pound of flesh in joint ventures and partnerships. In the US, many smaller players are disappearing because of lack of funds. Consolidation is the industry theme.

Biotech's rivals did nothing to warrant their own rise this week, and investors should not be surprised if a subsequent dose of bad news puts the sector into reverse. British Biotech's own shares plummeted by more than a quarter in January after the clinical trials of batimastat, then its most promising anti-cancer treatment, proved disappointing.

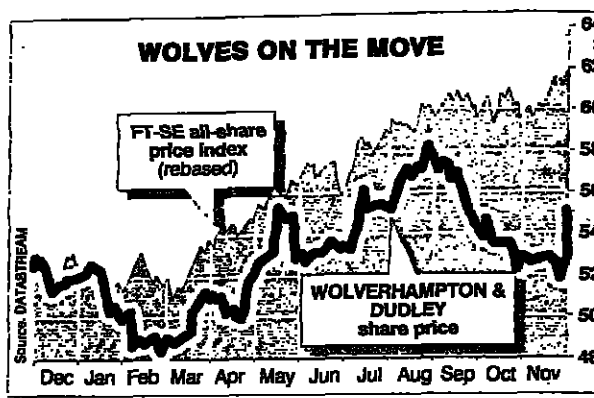
Wolverhampton & Dudley

WOLVERHAMPTON & Dudley Breweries makes half of its trading profit from managed pubs. Shareholders may justifiably feel that the landlord has been pouring short measures for some time.

But this year the hot summer and a second-half margin recovery helped Wolverhampton to lift full-year pre-tax profits to £43.5 million. The advance was flattered by a £3.1 million exceptional gain after the sale of the Crown & Raven hotel chain, but, excluding the property gain, 7 per cent is respectable growth from the largest regional brewer.

The summer heatwave boosted beer volumes in pubs. Take-home sales were also buoyant, in spite of the price competition from cross-Channel booze cruises. Completion of the pub refurbishment programme helped to lift group margins from 16 per cent in the first half to 20 per cent but investment will continue. Wolverhampton has expansion plans, aiming to add 15 new pubs next year to its existing estate of about 1,000 pubs. It will also relaunch 44 existing outlets and refurbish another 130 pubs. However, strong cash flow should keep gearing to 15 per cent.

Analysts are looking for full-year profits of about £42.4 million, putting the shares on a forward multiple of 12.7 times. A discount of about 15 per cent to the market seems harsh in the circumstances.



McCarthy & Stone

THE housing market has yet to turn but McCarthy & Stone is seeing no shortage of demand for sheltered housing. After suffering losses totalling some £60 million in the recession, McCarthy is now earning healthy gross margins and is intent on raising the tempo with medium-term plans to raise volumes from 900 units to 1,500 units.

The gross margin recovery is about land costs: McCarthy's expensive plots are gradually being built and sold off, allowing selling margins to improve in spite of the lack of improvement in prices. Meanwhile new land is being acquired at prices almost 30 per cent below the level at which land for existing stock was purchased.

McCarthy needs to keep stock on its books as buyers will not purchase from plan but the sales trend confirms a requirement for more investment in working capital as McCarthy sold 915 units last year despite having stocks of only 864 units at the beginning of the period. If McCarthy can maintain its margins and sell the 1,100 units it is currently holding as stock, profits could reach £10.5 million in the current year.

McCarthy has the balance sheet to cope with expansion and the main drag on sales has been the slow planning process. Years of weak housing markets will have created some pent-up demand for sheltered housing from elderly people. However, given the scale of McCarthy's disaster after the 1980s boom, investors will be thankful that this recovery is not too rapid.

Ascot

Ascot, the renamed Control Securities, could soon be on the acquisition trail. A manager from NatWest Ventures has been hired with a brief to scout the market: Ascot's chief executive, an alumnus of Williams Holdings, is looking for manufacturing businesses to bring into the group while he sells off the property and leisure assets.

The ambition is to turn Ascot's £70 million of shareholder funds into cash but the going is slow. Turmoil in the pub and brewing sector is making it difficult to sell Ascot's weaker public houses while the best are being held back for a portfolio sale.

However, Ascot is determined to get book value for its assets, which were valued in 1992. The company managed to increase profits, although £6 million of the £9 million result came from the repurchase of bonds. The strong equity market is pushing large companies to shed non-core businesses but prices are high and Ascot could probably wait until it has more money to spare.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

Dec	895-891	Mar	1011-1010
Mar	931-930	May	1021-1019
May	954-953	Jul	unq
Jul	973-972	Sep	—
Sep	993-992		
Dec	1005-1003	Volume: 8143	

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Jan	2075-2072	Sep	1790-1780
Mar	1944-1940	Nov	1770-1765
May	1875-1870	Jan	1750-1730
Jul	1815-1810	Volume: 3715	

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Oct	307.2-06.1
Spot: 388.5		Dec	302.5-01.1
Mar	352.4-51.7	Mar	302.2-99.6
May	343.5-43.1	May	304.2-00.8
Aug	335.4-34.6	Volume: 3082	

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on November 30

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	105.14	119.37	125.01
(+/-)	+0.66	+7.33	-2.16
Eng/Wales:	105.24	119.78	124.20
(+/-)	+0.69	+7.48	-2.44
(%)	-5.0	+21.0	+21.0
Scotland:	93.12	117.27	129.05
(+/-)	-4.16	+7.30	-0.83
(%)	-23.0	+85.0	+24.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	17.15	+0.05
Brent 15 day (Jan)	17.15	+0.20
Brent 15 day (Feb)	16.85	+0.15
W Texas Intermediate (Jan)	18.30	+0.15
W Texas Intermediate (Feb)	18.00	+0.20

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Gas .15	B: 175 (-2)	O: 177 (-2)
Gasoil EEC	160 (n/c)	161 (n/c)
Non EEC 1H Jan	161 (+1)	163 (+1)
Non EEC 1H Feb	159 (+1)	161 (+1)
3.5 Fuel Oil	91 (n/c)	93 (n/c)
Naphtha	150 (n/c)	153 (n/c)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Dec	157.25-57.50	Mar	154.25-54.50
Jan	157.75-58.00	Apr	152.75-53.00
Feb	156.25-56.50	Vol: 16243	

BRENT (6.00pm)

Jan	17.15-17.16	Apr	16.46-16.50
Feb	16.84-16.86	May	16.32-16.36
Mar	16.62-16.64	Vol: 32045	

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
Jan	116.90	Jan	116.65
Mar	128.90	Mar	118.75
May	130.90	May	120.00
Jul	132.90	Sep	110.25
Sep	115.00	Nov	112.25
Volume: 338		Volume: 95	

POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Mar	unq	270.0
Apr	270.0	267.0
May	unq	295.0
		Volume: 56

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

Jan 112.75-113.25

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Dec 95	1610	1580	1615
Jan 96	1570	1519	1570
Feb 96	1565	1555	1519
Apr 96	1553	1510	1553
Vol: 420 lots		Open interest: 3799	

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LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2932.0-2934.0	2711.0-2713.0	2313125
Lead ($/tonne)	755.00-756.00	721.00-722.00	153575
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1022.0-1023.0	1046.0-1046.5	335475
Tin ($/tonne)	6240.0-6245.0	6275.0-6280.0	26370
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1652.0-1653.0	1691.0-1692.0	1267800
Nickel ($/tonne)	8144.0-8146.0	8265.0-8270.0	50154

LIFFE OPTIONS

Series		Calls Jan	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Puts Jan	Puts Apr	Puts Jul
Alld Dom.	500	12½	28	34	14	21½	28
(*510½)	550	0½	9½	16	54	55½	61
Argyll	300	17½	27	31½	5½	10½	16½
(*314½)	330	5	13	17½	22½	26½	32½
ASDA	100	8	11	15	4½	7	7
(*103½)	110	3½	7	10½	9½	12	12½
Boots	550	34½	50	57	5	10	17½
(*576)	600	8	22	29½	28½	34	41½
Br Airways	420	42	52½	59½	2	5½	11
(*457)	460	14	26½	34	13	19½	26
BP	500	31½	42	49	3	9½	14
(*525½)	550	4	19½	23	26½	33½	38
Br Steel	160	10½	15½	19	3½	5½	10
(*166½)	180	2	6½	9½	15	16½	21½
C & W	460	17½	33	41½	17	24½	31
(*460)	500	5½	17	26	45	49½	54½
CU	650	24½	39	47½	17	35	39½
(*651½)	700	7	18½	27	50½	67½	70½
ICI	750	30	44	56½	13½	30½	36
(*762½)	800	9	20½	33½	42	60½	64½
Kingfishr	500	32	46½	51	6½	17½	25
(*521½)	550	7½	21	26½	32½	44	51½
Land Sec	600	15½	30½	37½	11	17½	28½
(*600)	650	1½	10	15	50	51	60
M & S	420	25	37	42½	3½	8½	13
(*439)	460	4½	15	21	23½	27	32½
Nat West	650	29	40	54	13	31	39
(*661½)	700	8½	18½	32½	42	62	68½
Sainsbury	360	30½	39½	44	2	5½	10
(*385½)	390	10½	21½	26	12	16	23
Shell	800	29½	44½	51½	6½	20	24½
(*816½)	850	6	18	25½	34½	48	51½
Smkl Bch	650	54½	68	81	4	12	16½
(*695½)	700	20½	37	51	19½	31½	36
Storehse	330	18½	26½	34½	7	11½	16
(*342)	360	6½	12½	19½	24	28	31½
Trafalgar	20	5½	7	8	1	2	3
(*24)	25	3	5	6½	3½	5	6
Unilever	1250	49	70½	83½	8½	27½	33½
(*1277½)	1300	20	40½	56	30½	51½	57½
Zeneca	1300	52	87½	113½	28½	64½	74½
(*1313½)	1350	29½	63½	88½	55	91	100½
Series		**Feb**	**May**	**Aug**	**Feb**	**May**	**Aug**
Grnd Met	420	27½	36½	45½	13½	17	22½
(*438½)	460	9½	18	27	37	39½	44
Ladbroke	140	13	15½	19½	8	13	15
(*143)	160	5	8	12	19½	25	26½
Utd Bisc	240	20½	30½	33½	4½	9	11½
(*258½)	260	14	19½	22½	11½	18½	21

Series		Calls Jan	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Puts Jan	Puts Apr	Puts Jul
BAA	460	42	53	60	1½	5½	10½
(*496½)	500	13½	26	34	13½	19	24½
Thames W	550	23	40½	47	12½	19½	34
(*556)	600	6	19½	26	45½	49	63½
Series		**Feb**	**May**	**Aug**	**Feb**	**May**	**Aug**
BAT Ind	550	31½	39½	47½	14½	27½	35
(*559½)	600	11½	18½	27	45½	58	65
BTR	330	17½	23½	26½	7	13	15
(*337½)	360	4½	8½	13	24½	31	33
Br Aero	800	63	78	98½	20	30½	39
(*833)	850	35	52	71½	42	53½	62
Br Telcm	360	26	33	40	4½	8	13
(*383)	390	8	16½	24	19	22	27
Cadbury	550	31½	39	49½	21	33	38
(*552½)	600	11	19	28½	51	64	68
Guinness	420	48½	53	58	3½	8	11½
(*459½)	460	20	26	33½	14½	23½	27
GEC	300	18½	29½	30½	6	8½	13½
(*312)	330	5	11	15	23	24½	29½
Hanson	180	9	11½	14	6½	8½	11
(*185½)	191	4	—	—	13½	—	—
LASMO	160	10½	14	18½	7	10	12
(*162)	180	3½	6½	10½	23½	21½	24
Lucas	180	13½	17	21½	5½	8½	10½
(*185)	200	5	8	12½	17	19½	21½
Pilkingtn	191	12½	16½	20	8	9½	13½
(*191½)	210	5	8	12	21	21	24½
Prudential	420	31	36	43	11½	20	23½
(*433½)	460	12	17½	24½	32½	42	46
Redland	360	32	40	45	6½	14½	17
(*380)	390	15	23½	27	20	29½	32
R-Royce	160	22½	24	28½	2	4½	6½
(*179½)	180	9	12	17	8½	12½	15
Tesco	280	22	27½	30	6	10½	13
(*292)	300	11	16½	19½	14½	20	22½
Vodafone	220	23½	30½	34½	4½	8	10½
(*234½)	240	12	19	24	13	17	19
Williams	300	32	36½	38	1½	6½	7½
(*325)	330	11	16	19½	11½	19½	20½

FT-SE INDEX (*3678½)

	3550	3600	3650	3700	3750	3800
Calls						
Dec	136	89½	48½	22½	7½	1½
Jan	157	120	85	57½	35½	20½
Feb	182½	144½	113½	85	63	44½
Mar	197	161½	130½	102½	78	57
Jun	—	204	—	148	—	99
Puts						
Dec	4½	8½	19	44	82½	132
Jan	21½	34	49½	71½	102	139½
Feb	34	46½	66	68½	118	152
Mar	47½	62½	81	104	131	162½
Jun	—	105½	—	148	—	200½

Series		Calls Dec	Calls Mar	Calls Jun	Puts Dec	Puts Mar	Puts Jun
Abby Nat.	600	54½	70½	76	1	13½	21
(*651½)	650	17	37½	45½	12½	33½	42
Amstrad	260	8½	19½	27	4½	12	15½
(*263½)	280	1½	10½	18	17½	23	26½
Barclays	750	44	64½	73	3	19	28
(*789½)	800	10½	34½	45½	20	42½	52
Blue Circ	300	30	39½	43	0½	5½	11
(*328½)	330	7½	20½	25	8	16½	23½
Br Gas	220	21	28	31	0½	4½	7½
(*239½)	240	6½	16	19	5½	12	16½
Dixons	390	28	42½	51½	1	11	15
(*415)	420	9	26	34½	11	23	28
Forte	330	16	27½	29½	2	9	14½
(*342)	360	2½	12½	15	19½	23	29½
Tarmac	90	6	11½	13	1	4	7
(*95)	100	1	6	8½	6	9½	12½
Hillsdwn	140	15½	19½	20	0	2½	5½
(*154½)	160	3	6½	8½	6½	10	16
Lonrho	160	10	15½	18½	1	6	7
(*168)	180	1	6	9½	12	17½	18
Sears	100	3	7	9	2	4	6
(*101)	110	0	2½	4½	9	10	12
Thrn Emi	1500	94	126½	164	2½	25	33
(*1585)	1600	25	69½	104½	32	65½	73½
Tomkins	260	9	16½	23½	3	10	12½
(*264½)	280	1½	7½	14	16	21½	23½
TSB	390	25	30	34	2½	14½	19½
(*411½)	420	6½	11½	16	14	33½	36½
Series		**Jan**	**Apr**	**Jul**	**Jan**	**Apr**	**Jul**
Glaxo Well	850	42	61	75½	12½	31½	40
(*873½)	900	17	34½	50½	37	57½	65½
HSBC	950	65½	90	108½	11½	35½	47½
(*997)	1000	35	61	79	29½	58½	70½
Reuter	600	36	51½	66	10½	22½	28½
(*621½)	650	12	26½	41	36	47½	54
Series		**Jan**	**Apr**	**Jul**	**Jan**	**Apr**	**Jul**
Royal Ins	390	24½	35	42½	9	23	28½
(*400)	420	11	21	29½	25½	40½	45½
Series		**Dec**	**Mar**	**Jun**	**Dec**	**Mar**	**Jun**
Fisons	260	5	7½	7½	0½	0½	0½
(*264)	280	0	0½	0½	16	16	17½
Series		**Feb**	**May**		**Feb**	**May**	
Eastern Gp	950	27	26	—	0½	1	—
(*974)	1000	0½	0½	—	33½	34	—
Series		**Dec**	**Mar**	**Jun**	**Dec**	**Mar**	**Jun**
Natl Pwr	460	11½	28½	39	6	15½	25
(*463½)	500	1½	12½	21	36½	39½	49
Scot Pwr	360	17½	24	32½	2	10½	12½
(*373½)	390	2½	10	17½	17½	26½	28½

December 1, 1995 Tot: 23832 Call: 13710 Put: 10122 FT-SE Call: 4309 Put: 5100

*Underlying security price.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100	Dec 95	3666.0	3688.0	3659.0	3680.0	7810
Previous open interest: 76622	Mar 96	3690.5	3709.0	3684.0	3704.0	1209
FT-SE 250	Dec 95	3970.0	3970.0	3970.0	3970.0	30
Previous open interest: 3500	Mar 96	4015.0	4015.0	4015.0	4015.0	30
Three Month Sterling	Dec 95	93.58	93.60	93.58	93.59	8052
Previous open interest: 396487	Mar 96	93.84	93.87	93.84	93.85	12199
	Jun 96	93.94	93.99	93.94	93.96	8323
Three Mth Eurodollar	Dec 95				94.28	0
Previous open interest: 110	Mar 96				94.70	0
Three Mth Euro DM	Dec 95	96.11	96.11	96.08	96.09	14232
Previous open interest: 925781	Mar 96	96.33	96.35	96.32	96.33	19169
Long Gilt	Dec 95	110-05	110-17	110-04	110-09	24278
Previous open interest: 139531	Mar 96	109-18	110-00	109-18	109-23	48734
Japanese Govmt Bond	Dec 95	122.73	122.81	122.69	122.78	552
	Mar 96	121.47	121.56	121.41	121.54	2095
German Gov Bd Bund	Dec 95	98.83	99.18	98.77	99.10	125702
Previous open interest: 217313	Mar 96	98.22	98.56	98.19	98.50	38120
Three month ECU	Dec 95	94.52	94.60	94.50	94.53	997
Previous open interest: 21813	Mar 96	94.78	94.84	94.75	94.80	970
Euro Swiss Franc	Dec 95	97.91	97.91	97.75	97.77	6554
Previous open interest: 57253	Mar 96	98.15	98.15	97.95	98.01	8516
Italian Govmt Bond	Dec 95	105.08	105.38	104.85	105.09	44546
Previous open interest: 42190	Mar 96	104.80	105.02	104.50	104.75	23375

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6¾ Finance Hse 7

Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 7 Low 6½ Week fixed: 6 11/16

Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 6 7/16 ; 3 mth 6¼ . Sell: 2 mth 6 11/32 ; 3 mth: 6¼ .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	6 11/16-6 9/16	6 11/16-6 9/16	6 11/16-6½	6½-6⅜	
Sterling Money Rates:	6¾-6 11/16	6 11/16-6 9/16	6⅝-6 9/16	6½-6⅜	6 11/32-6⅛
Interbank:	6¾-6 11/16	6 11/16-6 9/16	6 11/16-6 9/16	6½-6⅜	6 11/32-6⅛

Overnight: open 6¾ close 7.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Local Authority Deps:	6 11/16	n/a	6⅝	6½	6⅜
Sterling CDs:	6 11/16-6 9/16	6⅝-6½	6½-6⅜	6 13/32-6¼	6⅛-6
Dollar CDs:	5.80	n/a	5.70	5.65	5.60
Building Society CDs:	6¾-6 11/16	6 11/16-6 9/16	6⅝-6 9/16	6½-6⅜	6¼-6⅛

TREASURY BILLS: Applcts: £5,580m allotted: £1,200m; Bids: £98.44% received: 23%: Last week: £98.41% received: 83%: Avge rate: £6.2358% last wk £6.3758%: Next week: £1,200m.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5 13/16-5 11/16	5 25/32-5 21/32	5 11/16-5 9/16	5⅝-5½	5½-4½
Deutschemark:	4-3¾	4⅛-4	3 31/32-3 27/32	3⅞-3¾	4¼-3½
French Franc:	6-5½	6¼-6⅛	6⅛-6	6-6⅛	5¾-4½
Swiss Franc:	2⅛-2⅛	2⅛-2⅛	2½-2	2-1⅞	2¼-1½
Yen:	½-¼	½-¼	½-¼	½-¼	n/a

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $387.50-388.00 Close: $386.20-386.70 High: $387.50-388.00 Low: $385.90-386.40 AM: $387.15 PM: $386.20

Krugerrand: $387.00-389.00 (£251.00-253.00)

Platinum: $409.60 (£267.90) **Silver:** $5.21 (£3.395) **Palladium:** $130.50 (£85.33)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Dec 1	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.4750-2.4841	2.4808-2.4841	½-¼pr	1¼-1⅛pr
Brussels	45.42-45.64	45.54-45.64	10-7pr	31-27pr
Copenhagen	8.5510-8.5950	8.5730-8.5950	1½-¾pr	3½-2½pr
Dublin	0.9645-0.9680	0.9654-0.9680	11-8pr	23-18pr
Frankfurt	2.2107-2.2190	2.2153-2.2183	⅝-½pr	1½-1¼pr
Lisbon	231.35-232.62	231.99-232.62	29-56ds	111-155ds
Madrid	186.46-189.41	189.12-189.41	39-49ds	132-149ds
Milan	2449.7-2465.9	2461.9-2465.9	7-8ds	23-25ds
Montreal	2.0805-2.0985	2.0955-2.0985	0.18-0.09pr	0.29-0.15pr
New York	1.5270-1.5360	1.5350-1.5360	0.11-0.09pr	0.27-0.24pr
Oslo	9.7260-9.7680	9.7530-9.7680	1½-½pr	3½-2½pr
Paris	7.6410-7.6710	7.6550-7.6690	½-¼pr	½-¼pr
Stockholm	10.005-10.052	10.029-10.052	½-¼ds	½-¼ds
Tokyo	154.70-156.21	155.26-155.52	½-¼pr	2½-2½pr
Vienna	15.563-15.650	15.623-15.650	½-¼pr	1½-¾pr
Zurich	1.7960-1.8037	1.8005-1.8033	½-¼pr	1½-1¼pr

Source: Extel   Premium = pr. Discount = ds.

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.3531-1.3540
Austria	10.18-10.19
Belgium (Com)	29.67-29.68
Canada	1.3657-1.3662
Denmark	5.5870-5.5900
France	4.9965-4.9985
Germany	1.4431-1.4438
Hong Kong	7.7355-7.7365
Ireland	1.5849-1.5869
Italy	1600.30-1601.80
Japan	101.30-101.37
Malaysia	2.5335-2.5345
Netherlands	1.6153-1.6158
Norway	6.3554-6.3613
Portugal	151.30-151.40
Singapore	1.4138-1.4148
Spain	123.11-123.19
Sweden	6.5363-6.5438
Switzerland	1.1730-1.1740

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.5306-1.5332
Australia dollar	2.0720-2.0748
Bahrain dinar	0.5705-0.5825
Brazil real*	1.4753-1.4794
China yuan	12.00 Buy
Cyprus pound	0.6950-0.7050
Finland markka	6.5300-6.6460
Greece drachma	361.25-368.25
Hong Kong dollar	11.8415-11.8508
India rupee	52.84-53.80
Indonesia rupiah	3461.00-3529.60
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4545-0.4645
Malaysia ringgit	3.8788-3.8829
New Zealand dollar	2.3554-2.3595
Pakistan rupee	52.28 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.5075-5.6315
Singapore dollar	2.1645-2.1675
S Africa rand (com)	5.5620-5.6640
U A E dirham	5.5550-5.6790

Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank

FT-SE VOLUMES

3i	498	Legal & Gn	1,700
ASDA Gp	6,500	Lloyds Bk	2,300
Abbey Ntl	2,900	London Elect	128
Allied Dom	1,500	Marks Spr	3,100
Argyll Gp	2,600	Mid Elec	9
Arjo Wggns	1,000	NatWst Bk	5,100
AB Foods	824	Nat Power	1,500
BAA	3,700	NW Water	1,700
BAT Inds	3,100	P & O	1,100
BOC	172	Pearson	1,800
BP	7,900	PowerGen	1,300
BSkyB	34,000	Prudential	3,800
BTR	6,200	REXAM	2,600
BT	5,400	RMC	591
Bk of Scot	1,900	RTZ	2,000
Barclays	1,900	Rank Org	4,300
Bass	1,200	Reckitt Col	893
Blue Circle	779	Redland	633
Boots	2,200	Reed Intl	3,700
BAe	1,700	Rentokil	994
BA	7,300	Reuters	3,200
Brit Gas	9,700	Rolls Royce	10,000
Brit Steel	16,000	Royal Ins	3,600
Burmah Cstl	303	Ryl Bk Scot	2,500
Cable Wire	4,500	Sainsbury	2,600
Cadbury	1,600	Schroders	56
Carlton Cms	178	Scot & New	225
Cm Union	1,100	Scot Power	2,100
Cookson	4,900	Sears	2,400
Courtaulds	327	Svrn Trent	261
De La Rue	2,400	Shell Trans	9,400
Enterpr Oil	571	Siebe	2,100
Forte	2,900	SmKl Bch	1,400
GKN	666	Smith Nph	1,400
GRE	7,600	Sthern Elec	256
GUS	1,800	Std Chartd	2,700
Gen Acc	1,900	Sun Allnce	3,300
Gen Elec	4,600	TI Gp	621
Glaxo Well	2,000	TSB	1,800
Granada	5,500	Tate & Lyle	1,500
Grand Met	75,000	Tesco	3,900
Guinness	2,700	Thames W	525
HSBC	3,300	Thrn EMI	1,900
Hanson	29,000	Tomkins	2,500
ICI	746	Unilever	1,100
Inchcape	1,500	Vodafone	15,000
Kingfisher	2,400	Whitbread	643
LASMO	1,200	Wlms Hld	536
Ladbroke	14,000	Wolseley	413
Land Secs	1,200	Zeneca	627

WALL STREET

	Dec 1 midday	Nov 30 close
AMP Inc	39½	40½
AMR Corp	76½	76½
AT & T	66½	66
Abbott Labs	39½	40½
Advanced Micro	19½	20½
Aetna Life	72½	73½
Ahmanson (HF)	26½	26½
Air Prod & Chem	55	55½
AirTouch Comm	29½	29½
Alberto-Culver B	32½	32½
Albertson's	31	30½
Alcan Aluminm	32½	33½
Alco Standard	43½	43½
Allied Signal	48	47½
Alum Co of Am	58½	58½
Amax Gold Inc	6½	6½
Amerada Hess	47½	47½
Amer Brands	42½	41½
Amer El Power	37½	37½
Amer Express	43	42½
Amer Genl Corp	34½	33½
Amer Home Pr	91½	91½
Amer Intl	91½	89½
Amer Stores	25½	26½
Amer Standard	29½	30
Ameritech	55	55
Amoco	68½	67½
Anheuser-Busch	66½	66½
Apple Computer	37½	38½
Archer Daniels	17½	17½
Armco	5½	5½
Armstrng Wrld	60½	59½
Asarco	36	35½
Ashland Oil	34½	34½
Atl Richfield	109	108½
Auto Data Pro	80½	79½
Avery Dennison	46½	47½
Avon Products	72½	72½
Baker Hughes	20½	20½
Baltim Gas & El	26½	26½
Banc One	39	38½
BankAmerica	64½	63½
Bank of NY	47½	47½
Bankers Tr NY	67½	64½
Barnett Banks	60½	60½
Bausch & Lomb	36	36½
Baxter Intl	42	42
Becton Dickinsn	69½	69½
Bell Atlantic	64½	63
Bell Industries	22½	22½
BellSouth	39½	38½
Black & Decker	37½	37½
Block (H&R)	44½	44½
Boeing	73½	72½
Boise Cascade	36½	37½
Bristol Myrs Sq	80½	80½
Browning Ferris	30½	30½
Brunswick	21½	21½
Burlington Nthn	90½	80½
CNA Financial	115½	116½
CPC Intl	69½	68½
CSX	87½	87½
Campbell Soup	55½	55½
Can Pacific	18½	18½
Cptl Cities ABC	123½	123½
Carolina Pwr	32½	32½
Caterpillar	61½	61½
Central & SW	27	26½
Champion Intl	46½	47½
Chase Manhat	61	60½
Chemical Bk	60	60
Chevron Corp	49	49½
Chrysler	52½	51½
Chubb Corp	98	97½
Cigna Corp	110½	110
Citicorp	71½	70½
Clorox	76½	75½
Coastal Corp	35½	33½
Coca Cola	76	75½
Colgate-Palmolive	72½	73½
Columbia Gas	42½	43½
ColumbiaHCA	52½	51½
Compaq Comp	48½	49½
Comp Ass Intl	63½	65½
Conagra	40½	39½
Conrail	70½	69½
Cons Edison	29	28½
Cons Nat Gas	43½	44½
Cooper Inds	37	36½
Corestates	39	38½
Corning Inc	30	30½
Crown Cork	41½	41½
Dana Corp	29½	29½
Dayton Hudson	71½	72½
Deere	33½	32½
Delta Air Lines	78½	77½
Deluxe Corp	27½	27½
Detroit Edison	32½	32½
Digital Equip	57½	58½
Dillard Dept St	29	28½
Disney (Walt)	60½	60½
Dominion Res	39½	39½
Donelley (RR)	39½	38½
Dover Corp	38½	38½
Dow Chemical	71½	70½
Dow Jones	38½	38½
Dresser	24	23½
Duke Power	45½	44½
Dun & Brdstreet	62½	62½
Du Pont	67½	66½

	Dec 1 midday	Nov 30 close
Eastman Kodak	68	68
Eaton Corp	54½	54½
Emerson Elec	78	78
Engelhard Corp	23	23½
Enron Corp	37½	37½
Entergy	28½	27½
Ethyl Corp	12½	12½
Exxon	77½	77½
FMC Corp	74½	73½
FPL Group	43½	43½
Federal Express	75½	74½
Fed Nat Mtge	110½	109½
First Interstate	135	134
First Union Rlty	7	7
Flees Finl Grp	42½	41½
Fluor Corp	65½	65
Ford Motor	28½	28½
GTE Corp	42½	42½
Gannett	61½	61
Gap Inc Del	43½	45½
Gen Dynamics	59½	59½
Gen Electric	68½	67½
Gen Mills	55½	55½
Gen Motors	49	48½
Gen Reinsurance	150½	149½
Gen Signal	32½	32½
Genuine Parts	40½	40½
Georgia Pac	76½	77½
Gillette	51½	51½
Glaxo Welle ADR	26½	26½
Goodrich (BF)	69½	70½
Goodyear Tire	42½	42½
Grace (W&R)	62½	60½
Gn Atl Pac Tea	21½	21½
Great Wstn Fin	25½	25½
Halliburton	43½	43½
Harcourt General	40½	40½
Heinz (HJ)	32½	31½
Hercules	54½	54½
Hershey Foods	61½	61½
Hewlett Packard	82½	82½
Hilton Hotels	64½	64½
Home Depot	44	44½
Homestake Mng	16½	16½
Honeywell	46½	47½
Household Intl	62½	62½
Houston Inds	45½	45½
Humana	27	28
ITT Corp	122½	122½
Illinois Tool	63½	63½
Illinova	28½	28½
INCO	35½	35½
Ingersoll Rand	37½	38½
Inland Steel	26½	26½
Intel Corp	61½	60½
IBM	96½	96½
Intl Flav & Fr	51½	51½
Intl Paper	37½	38½
James River Va	31	31½
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	87	86½
Kellogg	77½	76½
Kerr-McGee	57½	57½
Kimberly-Clark	75½	76½
Kmart	7½	7½
Knight-Ridder	64½	64½
Lilly (Eli)	98½	99½
Limited Inc	17½	17½
Lincoln Nat	47½	46½
Litton	44½	44½
Liz Claiborne	29½	29½
Lockheed Martin	73½	73½
Louisiana Pac	26½	27
MCI Comm	26½	26½
Marriott Int	38½	37½
Marsh & McLnn	86½	86½
Masco Corp	29½	29½
May Dept St	43½	43½
Maytag Corp	20½	20½
McDonalds	45½	44½
McDonnell D	89½	90½
McGraw Hill	83½	83½
Mead Corp	57½	57½
Medtronic	53½	54½
Mellon Bk	54½	53½
Melville Corp	31½	31½
Merck Inc	62½	61½
Merrill Lynch	55½	55½
Microsoft	87½	87½
Minnesota Mine	65½	65½
Mobil Corp	105½	104½
Monsanto	116½	114½
Morgan (JP)	79½	78½
Motorola Inc	60½	61½
Natl Semi	21½	21½
Natl Service Ind	33½	32½
Navistar Int	10½	10½
NY Times A	29½	29½
Newmont Mng	40½	41
Niag Mohawk	9½	9½
Nike B	58½	58
NL Industries	12½	12½
Noram Energy	8	7½
Nordstrom	39½	39½
Norfolk Sthrn	79½	78½
Nthn State Pwr	47	47
Norwest Corp	33	33
Nynex Corp	49½	49½
Occidental Pet	22½	22½
Ohio Edison	22½	22½
Oracle	44½	45½

	Dec 1 midday	Nov 30 close
Oryx Energy Co	13	13½
Owens Corning	44½	44½
PPG Industries	45½	45½
PNC Bank	29½	29½
PP&L Res	24½	24½
Paccar Inc	44	43½
Pacificorp	19½	19½
Pac Enterprises	26½	26½
Pac Gas & Elect	27½	27½
Pac Telesis	30½	30
Pall Corp	27½	27½
Panhandle East	28	28½
Peco Energy	29	29
Penney (JC)	47½	46½
Pennzoil	39½	39½
Pepsico	55½	55½
Pfizer	58½	58
Pharm & Upjhn	35½	35½
Phelps Dodge	66½	67½
Philip Morris	98½	97½
Phillips Pet	33½	33½
Pitney Bowes	44½	44½
Polaroid	46½	46½
PriceCostco	16½	16½
Procter & Gmbl	85½	86½
Providian	40	40½
Pub Serv E & G	29½	29½
Quaker Oats	35½	34½
Ralston Purina	64½	64
Raychem Corp	53½	52
Raytheon	44½	44½
Reebok Intl	26½	26
Reynolds Metals	57½	57½
Roadway Srvcs	50½	50½
Rockwell Intl	49½	49
Rohm & Haas	61½	60½
Royal Dutch	129½	128½
Rubbermaid	27½	27½
SBC Comms	54½	54
Safeco Corp	71½	71
St Paul's Cos	56½	56
Salomon Inc	35½	36½
Sara Lee Corp	32½	32½
Scecorp	15½	15½
Schering Plough	58	57½
Schlumberger	64	63½
Scott Paper	57½	57½
Seagram	36½	36½
Sears Roebuck	38½	39½
Shell Trans	75½	74½
Sherwin Wllms	39½	39½
Skyline Corp	18½	18½
Snap-On-Tools	44½	44½
Southern Co	23	22½
Sprint Corp	40½	40
Stanley Works	50½	50½
Sun Company	27½	27½
Sun Microsys	83½	84½
Suntrust	69½	68½
Supervalu	32½	32½
Sysco Corp	30½	30½
TRW Inc	75½	74½
TCC Inds	2½	2½
Tandem Comp	12½	12½
Tandy Corp	47½	47½
Teledyne	24½	24½
Temple Inland	45½	45½
Tenneco	48	48
Texaco	74½	74
Texas Inst	58½	57½
Texas Utilities	38½	38½
Textron	76½	76½
Time Warner	40	40
Times-Mirror A	32½	32½
Timken	40½	40½
Torchmark	42½	42½
Toys R Us	25½	23½
Transamerica	76½	76½
Travelers	59½	59½
Tribune	63½	64½
Tyco Labs	32	31½
UST Inc	32½	32½
UAL	208½	209½
US Inds	15½	16½
USX Marathon	18½	18½
Unicom	31½	32
Unilever NV	134½	132½
Union Camp	48½	49½
Union Carbide	40	39½
Union Pacific	68½	67½
Unisys Corp	6½	6½
USAir Group	13½	13½
USF&G Corp	17½	17½
US Life	29½	28½
United Tech	95½	93½
Unocal Corp	27½	26½
VF Corp	51½	52
WMX Tech	29½	29½
Wal-Mart Stores	24	24
Warner-Lambert	90	89½
Wells Fargo	211½	210½
Westinghouse El	17	16½
Weyerhaeuser	44½	45½
Whirlpool	56½	55½
Whitman	22½	22
Winn Dixie	32½	64½
Woolworth	15	15
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	47½	47½
Xerox	137½	137½
Yellow Corp	12	12

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INSURANCE 33

Take some of the risks out of dangerous sports

WEEKEND MONEY

TRUST WATCH 35

Investments over there . . . and over here



Swings and roundabouts for savers

Every Budget has its winners and losers. **Sara McConnell** looks at some who benefit

WEEKEND MONEY

BUDGET UPDATE

Building society savers paying basic-rate tax lurched from swing to roundabout in dizzying succession this week. Less than 24 hours after the Chancellor announced a 5 per cent cut in savings interest tax in the Budget, societies cut mortgage rates by up to a third of a percentage point and warned savers that similar cuts could follow.

Accountants and financial advisers say the impending rate cuts underline the urgent need for savers to make maximum use of the new tax break on savings income and minimise the effect of any further rate cuts on building society and bank interest. Married couples and pensioners especially may be able to rearrange their investments so that none of their income from investments is taxed at more than 20 per cent.

On Tuesday, Kenneth Clarke cut the tax automatically deducted from savings interest by 5 percentage points to 20 per cent for both lower and basic rate taxpayers. He made it clear this was a first step towards a 20 per cent basic rate of tax. The Government is also desperate to encourage people to save more so that they do not have to turn to the State, particularly in old age.

From the beginning of the next tax year, April 6, the lower rate of tax on savings income will apply to building society and bank deposits, gilts, corporate bonds, unit trusts and purchase life annuities. An estimated 14 million savers will keep an extra £5 for every £100 of interest they earn. Savers who only pay tax at the lower rate of 20 per cent will no longer have to reclaim tax deducted from their savings. Non-taxpayers will have to reclaim the 20 per cent tax deducted.

Savers who have their interest paid gross automatically, on Pensioners Guaranteed Income Bonds or National Saving certificates for example, will also pay only 20 per cent tax when they later declare the interest on their tax return, as long as they are lower or basic rate taxpayers. But higher rate taxpayers will continue to pay tax on their savings at 40 per cent unless they replan their investments, advisers say. From next April, anyone with taxable income (including investments and pensions) of more than £25,500 will be a higher rate taxpayer. The Revenue will treat savings income as the top "slice" of income.

Married couples where one is a higher rate taxpayer and the other basic rate or less should transfer savings into the name of the basic rate payer, Towry Law, the independent financial adviser, says. This instantly cuts the tax bill in half, from 40 to 20 per cent. Couples have been able to transfer investments like this for several years but according to Charles Leven-Scrivener, of Towry Law, men in particular have been reluctant to make over investments to their wives, notwithstanding the tax advantages. Mr Levett-Scrivener says: "It is becoming even more valuable and important to use tax allowances to the full after this Budget."

Pensioners with little or no occupational pension who rely on income from investments should also take advantage of the lower tax deductions. Even if their total income brings them into the basic-rate tax bracket, they will still only pay a maximum of 20 per cent tax.



Granny Bonds offer more

National Savings received more than 2,000 calls the day after the Budget from older people keen to take advantage of relaxations in the rules governing Pensioners Guaranteed Income Bonds (Sara McConnell writes).

The qualifying age for the bonds has been reduced from 65 to 60 and the maximum holding has more than doubled from £20,000 to £50,000 (£100,000 for joint holdings).

The bond pays 7.5 per cent gross as monthly income, as long as the investment is held for at least five years. This could start to look tempting if saving rates continue the fall that they started this week.

Accountants believe that it is no coincidence that a 7.5 per cent return on £50,000 translates into £3,750, which almost exactly mirrors the new personal allowance of £3,765. Anyone with no other income would be able to set all the return from an investment in a pensioners' bond against the allowance, thereby paying no tax at all on it. Older pensioners and married couples will have extra age allowances, enabling them to earn an even larger slice of tax-free income.

The Chancellor said this week that he wanted to help people to keep more of what they earn and save. He is hoping this will mean less pressure on the public purse, particularly for the elderly.

Justin Urquhart-Stewart, planning manager of Barclays Stockbrokers, says: "The new incentives to save are all part of the subtext that because of an ageing population and the retreat of the nanny state people will have to save more themselves. What he is subtly trying to say is that the Government does not have enough money to pay for everything."

Letters, page 39

Weekend Money is edited by Anne Ashworth

Glimmer of hope on the home front

The Chancellor's refusal to help the UK's ten million homeowners in this week's Budget produced its own unexpected reward.

Leading lenders took the view that his failure to offer any help to alleviate the problems in the housing market, and his pronouncements about inflation, heralded an eventual fall in base rates.

They moved swiftly in anticipation of a 0.5 per cent cut, and by the end of the week, most of the UK's biggest mortgage institutions had trimmed their rates by between 0.2 and 0.4 per cent.

The Halifax kicked off on the day after the Budget with a cut from 7.99 to 7.74 per cent — a monthly saving of just over £9 on a £60,000 repayment mortgage and about £11 on an endowment mortgage. Abbey National followed by chopping 0.2 per cent. Its borrowers will now pay between 7.69 and 7.79 per cent depending on the amount borrowed. The biggest cuts were experienced by borrowers with Nationwide, Northern Rock and Yorkshire.

Nationwide cut its rate to 7.65 per cent — the second lowest rate for 25 years.

Only in January 1994 were rates a shade lower at 7.64 per cent, while Northern Rock cut 0.4 per cent to 7.59 per cent, below the rate in January last year, and Yorkshire cut its rate from 7.85 to 7.59 per cent.

A borrower with a £60,000 mortgage with the Nationwide will see his monthly repayments fall by just over £10 if he is on a repayment mortgage, and by just over £13 if he has an endowment or interest-only mortgage. Other lenders that cut rates included the Woolwich, Alliance & Leicester and the Bristol & West. But lenders gave warning that interest rate cuts meant savings rate cuts.

These latest rate cuts, coupled with the Chancellor's package of tax cuts, will make home ownership more affordable. The TSB house affordability index uses post-tax income, house prices and interest rates to calculate how much buying a house costs per £100 of take-home pay. The TSB expects this to drop to its lowest level for two years when the interest rates and tax cuts begin to bite. The last index showed buying a house cost about £28.70 per £100, down on the previous quarter's measurement of £30.40. A recent survey carried out by the Abbey National claimed houses were now more affordable than they had been for decades. It compared the cost of buying a house with that of renting. It found that, on average, buying a house was £20,000 cheaper than renting a house over 25 years. Charles Toner, Abbey National managing director, retail division, said: "With interest rates at an all-time low and greater stability in the housing market, buying a property with a long-term view is a cheaper, more-secure and viable option."

But in spite of the pointers to a sort of recovery for the housing market, problems still remain for the more than one million households with negative equity. Woolwich Building Society said 11 per cent of all borrowers have negative equity, with an average value of £7,000. A 2 per cent rise in prices would lift only 200,000 people out of this trap.

CAROLINE MERRELL

Better way for long-term care

PERSONAL INVESTOR



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

The Chancellor, like many others, is trying to come to grips with the rising cost of long-term care for infirm elderly people. But if the Budget is any guide, he is flailing around to no good purpose. Cutting retired people's standard of living is a counsel of despair. Persuading them to take out hugely expensive long-term insurance policies they may not need — the so-called "partnership scheme" — sounds like a silly lottery. Such schemes will give incentives almost as perverse as the present crude savings grab.

The answer is to provide people with incentives to save right through their retirement. And the way to do that is to fix maximum charges to the individual for long-term care on the basis of the maximum income their assets might produce. In other words, people should be asked to pay up to the amount that an actuary calculates would exhaust their capital at the time of death.

The Treasury needs to take a cool look at the tax regime for savings. That review should produce wider benefits to savers and to families, increasing their range of choice. To achieve that, the tax regime should give incentives for people to make provident choices, not assume we are all untrustworthy spendthrifts.

Public spending hawks have now formed an alliance with life assurance companies to devise another specialised tax-advantaged product for long-term care to add to pensions, their best seller. Instead, they should look at the pensions regime and see why it does not meet this emerging new need. Pensions establish an annuity, or its equivalent, at the point of retirement and thereby extinguish capital. By diverting savings into pensions, the tax regime hinders the spread of inherited capital across social groups because pensions die with us. That is why only one in 30 estates was liable to inheritance tax even before the Budget, and why the tax is not quite the "issue for Middle Britain" the Chancellor claims.

Pensions are also too inflexible to cope as people live longer, expect a higher quality of life, and cannot rely on extended families to provide it. More of us will need expensive long-term nursing or residential care. Final salary pension schemes pre-empt savings, but do not allow for a step up in income if and when this need arises. The present system, scarcely altered in the Budget, acts as a disincentive to retain other savings because the capital can be claimed as payment for care.

These distortions could be eliminated under a new regime for charging for long-term care. Instead of taking savings, the State should set a charge limit equal to the income from a person's assets if they were converted into an annuity when they entered long-term care. The older you were, the higher the percentage of your assets this would be, just like buying a real annuity.

That would leave the family choice. They could sell assets and buy an annuity. Or they could provide the sum in different ways: by handing over income and cashing enough savings to make up the difference, by building up loans against assets, or by potential inheritors paying the excess over the income the assets produce.

Working back from this principle should lead to wider reforms of savings and pensions. In any kind of money-puchase pension, such as personal pensions, you need never be compelled to take an annuity. Instead, savings could be accumulated in a form that allowed you to draw any annual income you chose up to the amount an annuity would bring. Even those who draw a conventional company pension would have an incentive to save part of their pension in the early years instead of blowing it.

The long-term care issue threatens to upset people's retirement plans and cut their standard of living in the early, healthy years. If the shadow annuity is introduced as the measure of people's ability to pay for long-term care, resolving this issue can increase choice, help more to leave inheritances, and bring overdue reforms to an increasingly obsolete pensions system.

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Helen Pridham looks into the Chancellor's idea for a two-stage option

A new twist on pensions

Among the ideas floated by the Chancellor in the Budget this week as a way of tackling the growing crisis over the funding of long-term care was the use of company pension benefits to help to cover the cost. His proposal was that members of occupational pension schemes should have the option of a variable pension, taking a smaller pension initially in exchange for a larger pension in later years, when people are more likely to need long-term care.

The idea has been given a muted welcome by the pensions industry. John Moret, of Winterthur Life, says: "The problem with the proposal is that it begs the question about the size of the pensions pot initially. Most people are not putting enough into their pension schemes to satisfy their ordinary retirement requirements, let alone pay for long-term care."

Linton Penman, of Lincoln National, believes the Chancellor's proposal has raised more questions than it has answered. Lincoln National had developed its own answer to funding long-term care out of pension benefits in 1991, based on insurance principles. Mr Penman says: "The whole point of the insurance solution [funded by a reduction in pension] is that it is simple to operate and secures high benefits for those who actually need them — and at relatively low cost."

The company scheme was later disallowed by the Inland Revenue. Similar schemes to the variable pension option are available to holders of personal pensions, having been given the green light by the Government in last year's Budget. These can be used to achieve, in effect, what the Chancellor is now suggesting for occupational schemes, that is that a lower pension can be taken to begin with, followed — with luck — by a higher pension later.

The main reason for introducing these schemes, however, was not to fund long-term care but to ensure personal pension holders were no longer forced to buy their pensions at retirement when annuity rates might be low. They allow the purchase of the annuity to be deferred until a more favourable time, or by age 75 at the latest.

But Mr Moret points out "These are not mass-market products. You really need a pension fund of at least £100,000 for a pension withdrawal scheme to make sense.

"Among personal pension holders, probably less than 5 per cent currently fall into this category."

Similarly, it is unlikely that the vast majority of occupational pension scheme members will be able to afford to take a lower retirement income even in the short term.

The National Association of Pension Funds is not against the Chancellor's idea. Bill Birmingham, of the association, says: "We have no problem with members being given more choice about how they take their pension benefits as long as any decision to forgo pension is voluntary."

WEEKEND MONEY



BUDGET UPDATE



A flexible approach? A lower pension first, followed, with luck, by a higher one later

THE FORGOTTEN ARMY

ELDERLY people buying annuities to pay for nursing home fees were neglected by the Chancellor. Although he announced that benefits from long-term care insurance policies would now be tax-free, whether paid direct to the policyholder or a care provider, he did not extend tax exemption to annuities. This inconsistency in approach was pointed out by Sandy Johnstone, manager of Commercial Union's 3rd Age Initiative, which offers special enhanced-payment annuities for old people in poor health entering care. He says: "There was already inequality because payments from these annuities are taxed on the basis that the investor has the same life expectancy as a healthy person which is plainly not so. We believe payments from these annuities should be tax-free."

THE PRESENT CHOICE

PEOPLE retiring today who have personal pension plans have the choice of taking a lower pension now in exchange for what could be a higher one in the future. Even those unable to do that need to look carefully at their options at retirement. Falling interest rates recently have resulted in decreasing annuity rates. This means that people reaching pension age now who are forced to buy annuities will be locked into these rates for the rest of their retirement. With a "pension withdrawal" scheme, pensioners can defer buying an annuity until a more favourable time, or age 75 at the latest. In the meantime, they can still take an income from their pension fund, which can remain invested. Another alternative is to take phased retirement, buying annuities in stages.

A do-or-die offer on inheritance

Anyone wanting to benefit from the changes to inheritance and capital gains tax proposed in this year's Budget must survive until April 6 next year or die before the next election, according to Clark Whitehill, the firm of accountants.

Changes to inheritance tax are normally implemented as soon as they are announced. But Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, proposes raising the inheritance tax threshold from £154,000 to £200,000 at the start of the next tax year.

Plans to extend retirement relief from capital gains tax apply immediately.

However, Mark Lee, a tax partner with Clark Whitehill, says that if Labour wins the next election, any tax benefits gained in this Budget could be wiped out. "This is a great Budget for people who die in the next 18 months," he says.

Patrick Connolly, of Chartwell Investment Management, agrees. He points out that the Labour Party has already stated that it intends to introduce proposals to secure the effective taxation of wealth, particularly when it is transferred through gift or inheritance.

Mr Connolly says: "Faced with conflicting political signals and a general election no more than 18 months away, the temptation for taxpayers is to do nothing. But doing nothing could well result in you repenting at leisure after a new Labour government has introduced such changes as it is now openly talking about."

The proposed raising of the inheritance tax threshold means that a further 7,500 families will escape paying inheritance tax in the 1996-97 tax year. Whereas 21,000 estates have paid death duties in the 1995-96 tax year, only 15,000 are likely to pay inheritance tax in 1996-97.

The Chancellor has also proposed that all holdings of shares in qualifying unquoted companies should become exempt from inheritance tax from April 6. This measure should help to reduce the selling of family businesses to raise money for death duties.

The exemption is expected to affect only 350 estates in the 1996-97 tax year, costing the Government just £5 million. To qualify, the deceased must have owned the unquoted shares for at least two years.

Previously, only holdings of 25 per cent or more were exempt from inheritance tax. Smaller holdings received 50 per cent tax relief. No change has been made to the rate of tax relief on qualifying holdings of quoted shares, which remains at 50 per cent.

In a further move to aid business, the Chancellor has proposed that retirement relief from capital gains tax should apply to people from the age of 50, a reduction of five years. This tax relief will apply with immediate effect to anyone aged 50 or more who disposes with the whole or part of a business, or shares in a "personal" company (one in which an individual holds at least 5 per cent of the shares). An individual does not actually have to retire to benefit.

You can normally earn capital gains of up to £6,000 (£6,300 for the 1996-97 tax year) before paying tax at your marginal rate. But retirement relief enables the first £250,000 capital gains to be taken tax free, while any gains between £250,000 and £1 million receive 50 per cent relief. For someone realising gains of £1 million, this produces a tax saving of £250,000.

Mr Clarke hopes that by lowering the age limit for retirement relief, more businessmen will be encouraged to release capital from existing concerns into new projects.

An individual may benefit from retirement relief any number of times until his or her total relief is used up.

But Mr Lee says: "I won't be advising my clients to postpone anything that they could do before the next election."

JILL INSLEY

Decent rates of return for safety-first savers

With inflation promising to remain below 3 per cent for the foreseeable future, savers no longer need to rush into equities to beat inflation. In recent years, banks and building societies have brought out competitive accounts with decent rates of return, while National Savings continues to offer some attractive products for the cautious saver. None of these will set the world on fire, and only National Savings' Premium Bonds could turn you into a millionaire overnight. But many of these vehicles offer a very safe way to save. Unless otherwise specified, all rates are gross.

NATIONAL SAVINGS

NATIONAL Savings has long been the home of the cautious saver. Income bonds currently pay 6.5 per cent for investments under £25,000, with a minimum first purchase of £2,000. Investors must give three months' notice to cash in the bonds, and will receive only half the promised interest if they cash in their bonds in the first year. Investment accounts are similar to one-month notice accounts. They pay 5.25 per cent for amounts under £500 and 5.75 per cent for larger sums to £25,000. Ordinary accounts pay a standard rate of 2 per cent on minimum deposits of £10. The first £70 is tax free. Customers can take out £100 on demand at any post office, or can request up to £250 at a chosen post office.

INSTANT ACCESS

AS A rule of thumb, the easier it is to get to your money, the lower the rate of return. Most instant access accounts do not start paying decent returns until your balance tops £2,000. An exception is Co-Operative Bank's Pathfinder account which pays 5.9 per cent gross provided you deposit £100 a month into the account or start with a lump sum of £5,000. The account comes with Visa/Delta card, but no cheques. According to *Moneyfacts*, this is one of the highest paying instant access accounts on the market at the moment. For balances above £2,500, Skipton Building Society's 3 High Street instant account pays 5.6 per cent, while Northern Rock's Go Direct account pays 4.85 per cent. Both accounts have minimum withdrawal limits.

HIGH INTEREST

INTEREST on most cheque accounts is laughably low, so savers who regularly leave large sums lingering in their cheque account should consider a bank or building society that pays a more reasonable rate. It is worth looking beyond the big high street names for the best deals. For balances above £2,500, UDT pays 6.25 per cent. Kleinwort Benson's high interest current account pays 6 per cent, Chelsea Building Society pays 5 per cent, while the Bank of Scotland's Money Market account pays 4.50. For smaller amounts, Woolwich Building Society's current account has the best rate, at 3.20 per cent on balances above £500.

POSTAL ACCOUNTS

REGULAR postal accounts are similar to standard instant access accounts, but they lack the convenience of branch banking. If you want to make a deposit or withdrawal from a postal account, you will have to use the postal service unless your account comes with a cashcard. Because of the slight inconvenience (and the bank's savings on branch overheads), these accounts tend to have higher rates than high street accounts. Scottish Widows Bank's instant access postal account pays 5.6 per cent on balances above £250. Buckinghamshire Building Society's Chiltern Gold postal account pays 5.8 per cent on accounts above £1,000. Nationwide asks for a minimum balance of £2,000 for its InvestDirect postal account, which comes with a cashcard.

ESCALATOR BONDS

THESE are also called stepped interest bonds because the interest increases in steps every year over the life of the bond. In order to enjoy the full benefit, you must hold the bond for its whole life, since the biggest rates are usually reserved for the last year. The Halifax's Stepped Income Reserve pays 6 per cent in the first year, rising to 6.5 per cent in the second, 7 per cent in the third, 7.5 per cent in the fourth and 9.5 in the final year, for an average annual return of 7.3 per cent.

NOTICE ACCOUNTS

IF YOU don't expect to be short of cash, a notice account is an option. These accounts offer attractive rates, but there are penalties if you take out your money without giving the required amount of notice. Sun Banking Corporation's Liquidity 60-Day account pays 5.75 per cent on balances above £100 for savers who are prepared to give 60 days' notice before taking out their money. For deposits of more than £1,000, Scarborough Building Society offers 6.6 per cent on a 50-day notice account, while Britannia Building Society currently pays 5.7 per cent on its index-linked 90-day account. The Britannia account is set at 2.5 per cent above the retail price index. Rates are adjusted monthly. There are no penalties for withdrawals, provided 90 days' written notice is given.

FIXED RATE

THESE are closer to traditional investments than they are to standard bank or building society accounts. They promise fixed interest rates and a full return of capital over a set period. Minimum deposits start at £1,000, but can be as high as £25,000. Whether these accounts are a good idea depends largely on whether you expect interest rates to go up or down in the near or medium term. If you expect an imminent drop in base rates, now may be the time to lock into a fixed rate. If you expect rates to rise, then you would be better waiting. One of the best rates is offered by Sun Banking Corp's Investment Certificates. These pay 6.6 per cent on £1,000 held for one year, or 7.5 when held for five years.

IS THE MONEY SAFE?

BEFORE parting with your money, make sure the institution is in one of the official protection or compensation schemes. Banks and building societies now offer comparable levels of protection. If the bank or building society collapses, savers would get back 90 per cent of the money lost up to a maximum of £18,000.

KAREN ZAGOR

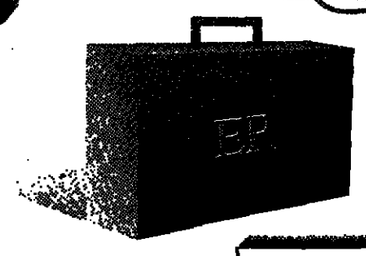
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Clarke says no to pin-up status



COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH
Personal Finance Editor

The Chancellor sensibly declined to come to the aid of homeowners in the Budget. Grants for those in negative equity would have made him a pleasing, chubby-chops pin-up in a million households, but would have been unfair to those who have been forced, in the past, to sell at a loss.

Extra tax relief for first-time buyers would equally have made him his backbenchers' answer to the chart-toppers, Robson and Jerome, but would have been open to abuse.

It was Kenneth Clarke's inaction that spurred the mortgage cuts after the Budget. Lower rates will now show whether people agree with Mr Clarke's statement that houses have never been so affordable.

Apart from urging waverers to commit to home ownership, the Chancellor's reluctance to intervene in the market has also done a favour for those who have already taken the plunge.

For several years, existing borrowers have been overlooked by banks and building societies more eager to attract new custom. This loyal band can now take heart in the Halifax's decision to remove cashbacks for new customers. The society intends to concentrate its efforts on those who have consistently paid their bills without incentives. Other lenders that have seen their margins squeezed by the need to offer sweeteners will be relieved that the Halifax has called time on the practice.

Borrowers will also be pleased to hear that it is not only the Chancellor who feels optimistic about property prices, a conviction he is professionally obliged to hold. The Halifax decribes the housing market as "poised for an upturn", while the Nationwide sees a "firmer trend". The Building Societies Association (BSA), suitably festive, speaks of "glimmers of improvement".

Again, all have a vested interest in recovery. Recent pronouncements have been gloomy in the extreme. Indeed, Ian Shepherdson, economist at HSBC Markets, claims that before the Budget, the BSA exaggerated the misery to wring concessions from the Chancellor.

Based on October's slightly increased demand for mortgages, Mr Shepherdson forecasts a new year price rise.

Mr Clarke has asked Santa for something similar. But like ten million homebuyers, past experience has made him prepared for disappointment.

Pension rebuff

COHABITATION is once more in the news. The Archbishop of Canterbury declares that "it is not, and cannot be, marriage in all but name". The Chancellor, for his part, insists that live-in lovers get a poor tax deal. Fiscally, marriage may be advantageous. But, not necessarily when it comes to pensions, as the case of Pamela Cantle (see page 36) illustrates.

During her years at home with her children, Mrs Cantle paid no National Insurance, but qualified for a pension on her husband's contributions. When she returned to work, Mrs Cantle paid the full stamp, reassured that any gaps in her record would be made good. Her troubles began when she divorced and remarried, only to learn that she would have been better off living with the new man in her life. The remarriage has cut a third from her expected pension, as she is not entitled to benefit from the contributions of her first husband. It is as if her years as wife and mother had been wiped out.

Such treatment is not an isolated example of the shabby treatment of wives within the pension system. Although new rules can give a divorced wife a share of her husband's pension, she will lose everything if he dies before retirement.

To underline its commitment to matrimony, the Government should address these shortcomings.

Fall in family fortunes

WEEKEND MONEY

BUDGET UPDATE



Better off down the years? The Budget helped this time

If the Chancellor is to be believed, Middle Britain has much to be thankful for from the latest Budget. But a Budget post-mortem by the Institute for Fiscal Studies shows that yet again the rich get more while the poor lose.

Research carried out for *The Times* by Chantrey Vellacott, the accountant, not only bears this out, it shows that on average we are all worse off than at the last election.

We are paying more tax as a result of Budgets past. Mortgage interest relief (Miras) has been whittled back to 15 per cent from 25 per cent since 1993, putting a higher tax burden on homeowners.

Personal allowances were frozen for two years — 1993-94 and 1994-95 — adding to the impact of inflation. The married couple's allowance is now given at 15 per cent, down from 40 per cent. And employees' National Insurance contributions (NICs) have risen to 10 per cent from 9 per cent.

Higher indirect taxation since 1992 has also taken a toll. We now pay 8 per cent VAT on the fuel that heats our homes. Duty and associated VAT on petrol has added 9p per litre in real terms to the cost of unleaded petrol.

General insurance premiums are now subject to 2.5 per cent VAT, while VAT on tobacco has put 30 pence on a pack of cigarettes. Holidays are not exempt. There is £5 air passenger duty on flights within the UK and EU, and £10 for flights further afield.

The latest Budget has softened the impact of some of these changes. Still, according to Maurice Fitzpatrick, senior tax consultant at Chantrey Vellacott, the Chancellor would have to give back another 6½p in the pound in his next Budget to bring taxes back to the 1992 level.

■ **Married without children:** Working married couples with no children fared better than most in the latest Budget. Like all basic and higher rate taxpayers, they will benefit from an extended 20p tax band and the reduction in the basic rate itself. Married couples effectively gain twice from these changes. In addition, they gain from the married couple's allowance, which was lifted in line with inflation.

A couple with joint earnings of £69,330 in the 1996-97 tax year can expect tax and NICs saving of £652 on the amount they would have paid before the Budget changes. But with 28.7 per cent of their gross earnings disappearing in tax and NICs, they are still worse off than in 1992-93, when tax and NICs would have accounted for 27 per cent.

■ **Married with children:** The gains for a man earning £60,420 next year with a non-working wife and two children will be less dramatic. He will save £348. Tax and NICs will take 33 per cent of his gross earnings, compared with 30.9 per cent in 1992-93.

A married man with two children earning £20,140 next year will be £193 better off. Tax and NICs will swallow 24.4 per cent of his gross earnings, compared with 20.4 per cent in 1992-93.

■ **Lone parent:** A single parent earning £18,106 will save £172. But tax and NICs will take 23.3 per cent from gross earnings, up from 18.8 per cent in 1992-93. In addition, single parent benefits are to be frozen next year, with the aim of easing them out. This means £13 per child less than if these benefits had risen with inflation.

■ **Married pensioners aged 65 to 74:** Pensioners did well in the Budget. A man with pension income of £10,000 married to a woman with pension income of £5,000 will together save £103 in taxes. And they are losing only 4 per cent of income to tax, compared with 6 per cent in 1992-93.

All examples, except the pensioners, assume a £30,000 mortgage.

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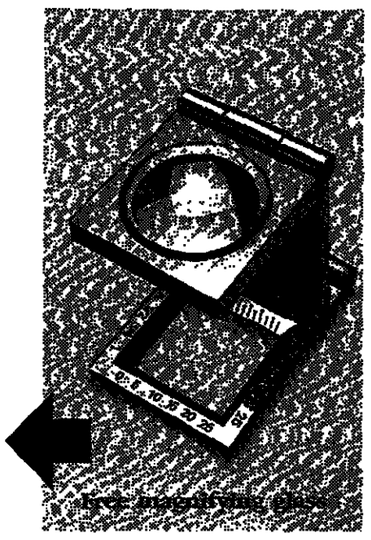
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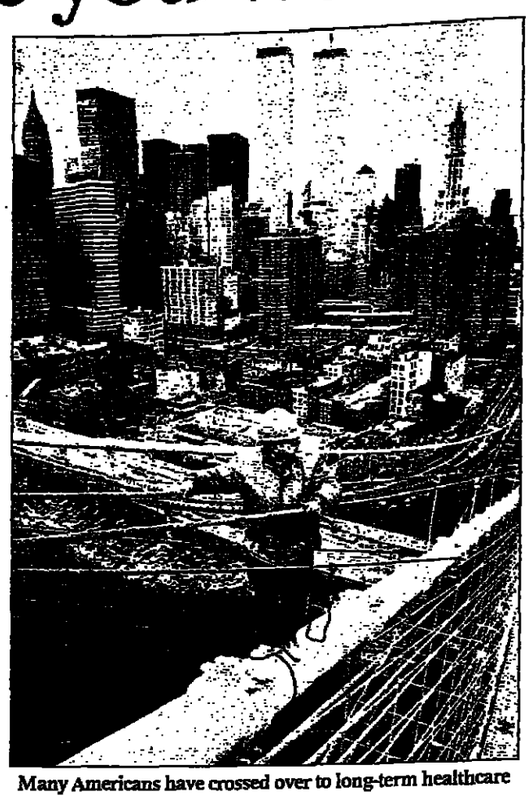
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WEEKEND MONEY

BUDGET UPDATE



Many Americans have crossed over to long-term healthcare

The Budget put the funding of long-term healthcare and the question of who pays for it at the top of the political agenda. Taking its lead from the US, the insurance industry is looking at employer-sponsored insurance schemes. They enable employees to avoid commission, as well as high administrative costs, and to benefit from block business savings.

By the end of 1993, there were more than 400 employer-sponsored schemes in the US, involving around 400,000 people. Acting as sponsors, employers negotiate a deal for a single payment purchase scheme or a regular premium policy. Most companies do not contribute to the scheme, although flexible benefit packages with fixed upper limits are an alternative.

Robert Stenlake, a partner with Bacon & Woodrow, the actuaries, says: "The employer does the running, and removes most of the aggro for employees and pensioners. Only a few UK insurance companies offer long-term policies and they are still selling direct to customers, so there is a whole range of products just waiting in the wings."

Only 15,000 policies have been issued by seven companies so far, including Clerical Medical and Pearl Assurance. Commercial Union was the first UK insurer to enter the long-term care market. For a 55-year-old man £1,000 a month cover with the company will cost £43.80 a month. The cover includes a "paid up" value, which freezes a policyholder's savings if premiums cannot be paid after a minimum of five years. Eagle Star quotes £42 a month.

An 80-year-old man who is not well, and wants £300 a week nursing home fees cover for the rest of his life, would need £62,200 lump sum to buy Commercial Union's policy. Eagle Star charges £42,000.

The Association of British Insurers (ABI) said: "It will never be a solution to long-term care. It is still quite an expensive type of insurance, and one that will never be a mass product in the same way as motor or house insurance. If you don't need long-term care, then your money's gone." Only one in six will require long-term care. The average stay in a nursing home is three years and a year's treatment can cost as much as £17,600.

The Chancellor's decision to double the wealth threshold for state help with residential nursing care to £16,000 was more popular among insurance and pension fund figures. Raising the level of assets below which people pay no contribution from £3,000 to £10,000 was also hailed as a positive move to reduce the immediate burden on those with modest savings.

Around 200,000 people are reported to pay the full cost of care themselves, which can be as much as £350 per week.

MORAG PRESTON

Save more with a partner scheme

THE Chancellor referred to "partnership schemes", similar to those in four American states, where people who plan ahead to meet a proportion of long-term care costs are able to retain more of their savings over £16,000 (Morag Preston writes).

PPP Lifetime, the UK's leading long-term care insurer, has been actively promoting the "Connecticut scheme", where after three years those who have taken out recognised private insurance of a specified amount will have their bills picked up by the State.

Paul Seymour, chairman of the Continuing Care Conference, an umbrella body covering charities and insurers, said: "The changes are minimal. It's only a palliative — it won't solve the problem. The move to exempt cash payments from insurance policies will probably help some individuals to cover care bills in their own home, but will have limited impact. Not that many people will be making these kinds of claims.

"The major benefit is the consultation coming up." Mr Seymour said, referring to discussions on the Chancellor's initiatives that will take place with the Treasury during the new year. "It's about making improvements for the future, not just for today. The Chancellor was perfectly right not to come up with an immediate answer."

HOW ALLOWANCES CHANGE

1995-96 Taxable income bands £	Tax rate	1996-97 Taxable income bands £	Tax rate
0 to 3,200	20%	0 to 3,900	20%
3,201 to 24,300	25%	3,901 to 25,500	24%
24,300+	40%	25,500+	40%
Basic personal allowance on which no tax paid	£3,525		£3,765
Income limit for full age-related allowance	£14,600		£15,200
Investment income tax for basic rate taxpayer	25%		20%
Married couples allowance			
Under 65	£1,720		£1,790
65-74	£2,995		£3,115
75+	£3,035		£3,155
Inheritance tax allowance	£154,000		£200,000

TAX BRIEFINGS

Reducing the qualifying period for employee save-as-you-earn schemes, which encourage share ownership through share options linked to savings plans, from five to three years should encourage more younger workers to participate. The minimum amount employees can save every month has been reduced from £10 to £5. Chantrey Vellacott, the chartered accountant, said the reduction may have been aimed at encouraging people to put their money in employee share-ownership schemes rather than the National Lottery. Employees can also cash in shares in company profit-sharing schemes after three years and pay no tax. Under present rules, employees have to wait five years before cashing in the shares tax-free.

■ Payments from insurance policies to cover loan repayments in case of sickness or redundancy, or to cover income lost through sickness will be exempt from tax after April 6, 1996. Existing claimants can reclaim any tax they have paid through their tax office.

■ This summer, the Revenue threatened to tax gains on gilt and bond holdings as income. After an outcry, only holdings of £200,000 or more were affected. Now, all individuals and trusts holding gilts and bonds will be exempt from income tax, which will apply to companies only.

■ The Budget changes mean employees with company share option plans up to £20,000 will pay no income tax when the options are granted or exercised on two conditions: the shares must be worth up to £20,000 when granted, and must not be granted at less than market price.

■ Transfer of assets between husband and wife is not taxable, unlike that between co-habitees, which triggers a capital gains charge. In addition, from April 6 a husband and wife will each be able to leave £200,000 to their children free of inheritance tax when they die. It therefore makes sense for man with £400,000 assets to transfer half to his wife. Anyone can take a chance that they are going to live another seven years and make a gift of money without paying tax (other assets such as stocks and shares may trigger CGT). With careful planning, a family with a home and modest savings could avoid inheritance tax altogether. Those with surplus income can make regular money gifts without incurring tax. You have to prove it is surplus cash, that you did not lower your standard of living by giving it away, and gifts are made regularly.

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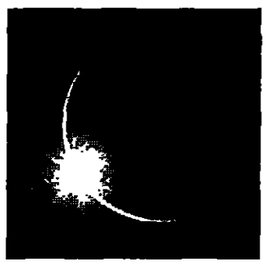
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هكذا من الأصل

Marianne Curphey looks into insurance schemes for fans of riskier recreation



Really active sports enthusiasts who respond to the pull of more perilous pastimes could find that an annual insurance policy is a better bet

Cover for those dangerous times

The most dangerous sport in Britain is angling. More people die — through falls, drownings and riverbank accidents — than in any other sport, including racing and rally driving and horse riding.

Insurance schemes for risky sports have multiplied as more people choose to spend their leisure time living dangerously. As far as insurers are concerned, if you regularly scuba-dive, fly a microlight, bungee-jump, windsurf or play roller-hockey, you are indulging in a "high-risk sport". Rambling, traditionally a pastime for older people, is regarded as "intermediate", while tug of war falls into the low-risk category along with snooker and bowls.

There are large variations in the price and scope of cover, but the minimum should include cover for search costs and repatriation, loss of limbs, temporary and/or permanent disability, and may extend to dental and physiotherapy costs.

The categories by which sports are classed depend more on the cost to the insurer meeting the claim than the intrinsic danger of the pastime. Judo and surfing are classed as high-risk sports because of the damage you could theoretically do to an opponent or participant.

Mountaineering is regarded as very risky because even the most experienced mountaineer has to make only one slip to have a fatal accident.

A tailor-made policy will be necessary if you have a penchant for extreme sports such as abseiling and hang-gliding, which will be excluded from most travel and sports insurance cover. Bungee jumping, potholing, water-skiing and microlight flying may also require special policies.

The Association of British Insurers says that the increase in general leisure time and outdoor pursuits has led insurers to look carefully at the sports market.

David Sterling, managing director of Crispin Speers and Partners, a London-based insurer, agrees that demand is increasing "all the time".

Mr Sterling says: "People are spending their holidays, weekends and time off doing ever more obscure sports. Although we cover all ages, the highest premiums are paid by older people learning a hazardous sport for the first time." The company offers an amateur sports policy through insurance brokers that covers any sport for a year, with prices starting at £100 per person.

Premiums for mountaineering are assessed on whether cover is required for Britain, the Alps, America or the Himalayas, he adds.

For the really active, an annual insurance policy is often the best way to organise

> "People are spending time off doing ever more obscure sports"

cover. One company, Visasports, which, from January, will be called Sports Cover Direct, offers two policies: for £26 annually a Multisports card that covers activities including mountaineering, skiing, paragliding (which has a £75 excess), canoeing, surfing, windsurfing, and judo; and a Venture card that offers worldwide travel and sports insurance from £50 upwards; ski cover starts at £66 and paragliding at £135.

Julian Huchs, managing director, says that demand for specific sports policies has grown over the past four years. "The average annual travel insurance still does not cater for sports enthusiasts and risky sports are often excluded.

"We see tailor-made policies as a growth market which has so far been very successful for us," he says.

Cycling is classed as relatively low risk and, from January 1, anyone joining the British Cycling Federation at a cost of £19 per adult (there are reductions for children) will receive free legal and insurance cover in the event of a car or cycling accident. The cost of repairs will be claimed from the third party at the conclusion of the claim.

With the start of the ski season only weeks away, skiers should ensure their travel insurance policies give adequate cover. The minimum should be medical cover of up to £1 million, payment of between £25,000 and £30,000 for total disablement, and cover for liability in case they cause an accident.

Insurance cover costs more for those skiing in North America and most ordinary travel insurance will not cover off-piste skiing or snowboarding.

The French Ski Federation runs an annual skiers' insurance card called Carte Neige, which covers the holder solely in the event of a mountain sporting accident, including skiing off-piste, freestyle skiing and snow-boarding, and summer sports such as walking, climbing and mountain canoeing. It costs £32.50 per person per year.

Mondial Assistance, the international assistance organisation, has just launched a travel insurance plan for Carte Neige holders that extends the medical cover available and adds worldwide insurance cover for cancellation, lost baggage insurance, and legal insurance. It costs £75 per adult per year.

Columbus Travel Insurance is currently offering up to eight days' ski insurance within Europe for £29 per person. There are no restrictions on off-piste or snowboarding activities.

Carte Neige is available through Alpine Apartments Agency: 01544 388234. Visasports: 0117 9226222.

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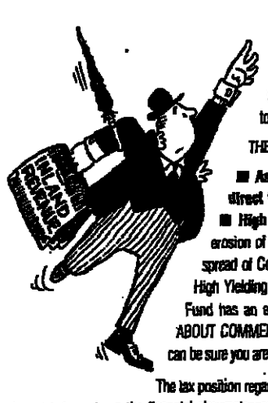
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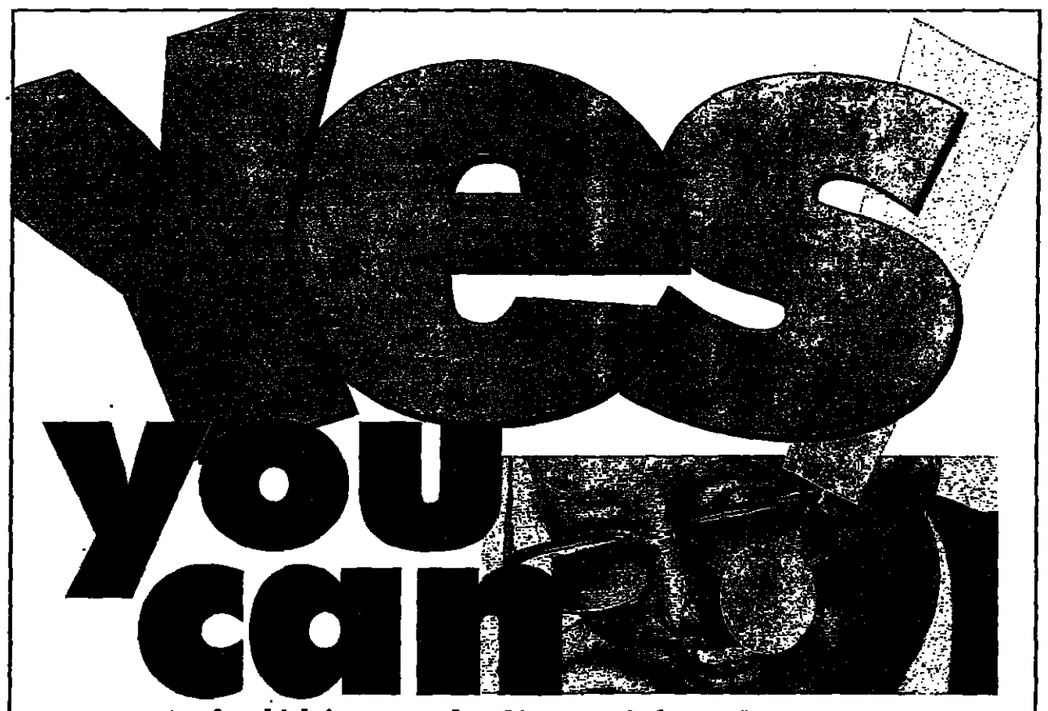
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Look a storm in the eye with good insurance

Karen Zagor

on how to prepare for the wind of change this winter



Insure the roof over your head adequately to cover any storm damage claims

In a month when high winds and heavy rains have buffeted Scotland, Ireland and the South West of England, homeowners have started to file the first storm insurance claims of winter.

But claiming for storm damage is not a straightforward process, as readers who have had their roof tiles blown off by high winds may have discovered.

The problem is that there is no simple industry definition of a storm. Technically speaking, a storm measures force 11 on the Beaufort Wind Scale, with wind speeds of 56 to 65 nautical miles per hour. Since 1989, the Insurance Ombudsman has interpreted a wind storm as measuring force 10 or more, with mean wind speed of at least 48 knots. But the Meteorological Office, which monitors weather conditions for the country, says damage can occur when gusts reach 39 knots or more.

This lack of consensus means that it is easy for an insurer to claim that the high winds in question did not constitute a storm for insurance purposes. The Insurance Ombudsman says he expects insurers to show some flexibility, rather than rigidly applying a Beaufort Scale standard. But weather conditions must be of an extreme or unusual intensity to qualify as a storm. Exceptionally heavy rain, hail or snow may fall into the storm category.

The situation is further complicated because most policies do not cover wear and tear to property. Unless other homes in your street are affected, it is not difficult for an insurer to reject a claim on the basis that the property was not properly maintained. A Norwich Union spokeswoman says: "You do have a responsibility to keep your property in good condition. If poor maintenance is a feature then wear and tear may come into play."

Last year the Insurance Ombudsman heard 147 cases related to disputes over storm damage. This summer he shed some light on the subject when he ruled that a policyholder and her insurer should split the cost of a claim where previous, unseen damage had contributed to the weakness of a wall which was later damaged in a storm. The ombudsman noted that the decay had not reached such a level that it was a disaster waiting to happen. Because the damage would not have occurred under normal conditions, the insurer was asked to contribute.

The best way to forestall an insurance claim rejection is to have evidence that the property was in good condition before the inclement weather struck. The Association of British Insurers produces a helpful fact sheet on how to avoid trouble.

BEFORE THE STORM

CHECK whether you are covered for the full cost of rebuilding. If you are not, you may want to switch insurers or upgrade your policy. Similarly, check whether you home contents cover is for full replacement value or for market value. You will get a lot less if it is the latter.

FLOODS

IF YOU are in a flood alert area, move everything you can upstairs and put sandbags against the doors. If you are flooded, do not drink tap water or use electric or gas appliances until told it is safe to do so.

WIND DAMAGE

IF YOU have been delaying essential repairs, act now. A storm will make the damage worse. *Check the roof, chimneys and gutters for loose or dislodged tiles, cracks and blockages. Flat roofs do not last for ever. If yours is seven or eight years old, consider getting it replaced.*

If your roof is damaged in a storm, use plastic sheeting or hardwood to minimise damage to your possessions, but do not climb onto the roof in a storm.

FROZEN PIPES

FROZEN pipes can be dangerous, especially if any part of the hot-water system is frozen. You can reduce the risk of freezing by insulating pipes and water tanks. Water pipes in the loft should only be lagged on the top so that heat from below can reach them. Make sure your water storage tank has a stop valve so that you can stop water flowing if a pipe bursts.

To prevent a sudden cold snap freezing pipes while you are away from home, leave the central heating on constantly at a normal setting if you take a winter break.

If your pipes do freeze, turn off the main stop valve and apply heat to the pipe, starting near the tap. Hot-water bottles or hairdryers will work, but do not use a naked flame. If part of the hot water system is frozen, turn off the boiler and call a plumber immediately to minimise the risk of explosion.

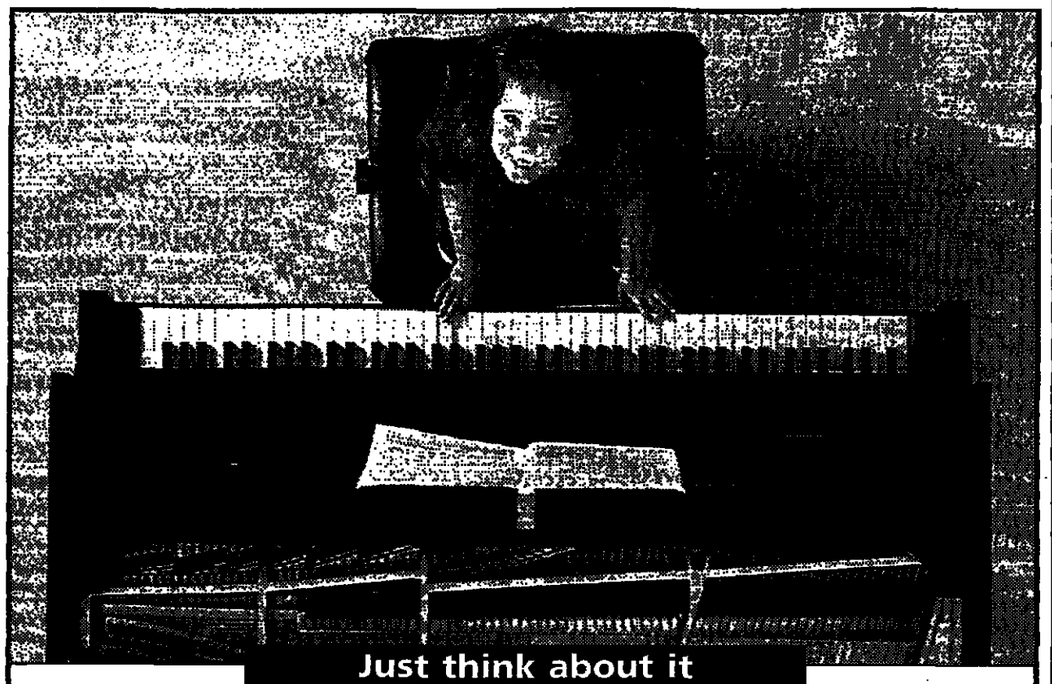
CLAIM REJECTED?

IF YOUR insurer says the weather wasn't stormy enough to merit a claim, check with your local Met Office for a report of exact weather conditions on the day. There may be a fee for this. When making your claim, be precise about the time and date; some claims are initially rejected because the homeowner got the date wrong. Find out if any neighbours have been affected. If your neighbours suffered storm damage it could strengthen your claim.

WHERE TO GO

IF YOU still feel you have been treated unfairly, contact the Insurance Ombudsman Bureau, City Gate One, 135 Park Street, London SE1 9EA. The inquiry line is on 0171 928-7600.

For a winter weather information sheet write to the Association of British Insurers, 51 Gresham Street, London EC2V 7HQ.



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President Clinton may have rekindled the special relationship, but the UK is no longer so inextricably linked to Wall Street

Investment over there . . . and over here

Robert Miller looks at increasing exposure to the UK stock market

TRUST WATCH

President Clinton's visit to Britain, Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic this week did as much to rekindle the "special relationship" between Britain and the US as it did to enhance Ireland's position as the ancestral home of at least four US Presidents.

But in stock market terms, the UK is no longer so inextricably linked to Wall Street as it used to be, even though the two markets have more in common with each other than the UK does with many of its European trading partners.

Five years ago, for example, the gap between the Dow Jones industrial average and the FTSE 100 index was a comparatively narrow one of 300 to 400 points. Nowadays, that band has broadened to about 1,400 points.

The question for investors is not whether the UK features in a portfolio — it should be the bedrock in stock market terms — but whether to increase that exposure and, if so, through which medium.

It has long been the perceived wisdom that if you wanted income, you went for an income sector unit or investment trust. If you wanted your money, hopefully, to grow over the years, you went for a straightforward capital growth trust. There is, however, an alternative on the growth front that may serve equally well and that is picking an income fund and reinvesting the dividends.

As the Micropal statistics show, there is little to choose between the two in performance terms either for unit or investment trusts. Over both one year and three years, UK equity income and UK equity growth trusts have provided better average returns than is true for the Micropal benchmark of all trusts.

One of the most consistent performers has been the Jupiter Tyndall team headed by William Littlewood on the income side and Edward Bonham Carter for growth. Neither believes in sector selection on its own and both pay close attention to picking individual companies. Mr Littlewood, for example, is keen on Capital Corporation and London Clubs, the casino companies, and food retailers such as Tesco. He is also a fan of Perpetual, one of the most successful fund management groups, in which 4 per cent of Jupiter Tyndall's Income fund is invested.

Mr Littlewood and Mr Bonham Carter passionately believe that technology is the key to future growth and prosperity in UK companies. As Mr Littlewood puts it: "Technology is helping a lot of companies to be more efficient and keep the prices for goods and services down. It is also a key in the mergers we are seeing such as that of Lloyds Bank and TSB."

He believes that there will be a number of mergers and takeovers between banks, insurance companies and building societies over the next year or so. One spin-off could be that consumers in general will increase their spending partly on the back of windfall distributions and also an increase in real disposable incomes.

Mr Bonham Carter, whose UK Growth fund has a small 2 per cent exposure to the US market, believes that in spite of the potential for a consumer "bounce-back", persistent concerns about job insecurity and demographic and structural changes will keep the lid on any long-term plans for consumers to embark on a sustained spending spree. But both believe the economic fundamentals that help to drive markets onwards and upwards are set fair. Mr Littlewood's view is that inflation is "virtually dead" and that interest rates could be cut at least twice in the next nine months, possibly to about the 4 per cent level. There has been a slowdown in global economies partly because interest rates are still too high. "When rates come down, markets generally go up," Mr Littlewood says.

In 1994, the FTSE index of the UK's top 100 companies was down 10.3 per cent. This year, it opened at 3,065.7 and, in spite of dipping down below 3,000 on several occasions in January and March, has marched on to successive highs. In the same period, the FTSE all-share index of nearly 900 UK companies has moved from 1,521.08 on January 3 to about1,788.

Among the future uncertainties facing investors are the outside prospect of a general election coming sooner rather than later, although Kenneth Clarke's Budget this week strongly suggests that he expects another bite at the cherry next November.

There is also the general slowdown that has faced global economies. That could be overcome if worldwide interest rates, led by the US, begin to fall again. There are also some analysts who believe that we have already seen the best from the UK stock market in performance terms. That, of course, is always a possibility. But your exposure to the UK market, if you are taking a reasonably cautious approach to equity investment, should be constant at about 50 to 55 per cent of your overall portfolio, with the possibility of dipping to the lower end of that scale if you want to take profits from time to time.

BEST PERFORMING UNIT TRUSTS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

EQUITY INCOME

ONE YEAR		THREE YEARS	
Jupiter Income	125.91	GT Income	202.68
Perpetual Income	119.93	Jupiter Income	202.10
Meldon General	118.20	Perpetual Income	185.00
Premium Ll Monthly Income	117.82	Morgan Grenfell UK Eqty Income	180.11
Lazard UK Income	116.19	Premium Ll Monthly Income	176.65
Morgan Grenfell UK Eqty Income	114.24	M&G High Income	173.15
Sector Average	108.10	Sector Average	149.51

EQUITY GROWTH

ONE YEAR		THREE YEARS	
Jupiter UK Growth	129.28	Fidelity Recovery	208.34
Credit Suisse Fellowship	128.42	PM Equity Growth	195.32
PM Equity Growth	127.30	Jupiter UK Growth	193.82
Sarasa UK Growth	126.40	Exeter Capital Growth	193.44
OM Hartley Growth	123.84	Fidelity Special Situations	190.97
Govett British Growth	123.23	Evermore Recovery	187.73
Sector Average	111.22	Sector Average	150.09

BEST PERFORMING INVESTMENT TRUSTS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

CAPITAL GROWTH

ONE YEAR		THREE YEARS	
Schroder UK Growth Fund	137.11	Fleming Enterprise	207.73
Fleming Enterprise	126.94	Welsh Industrial	181.38
BZW Endowment	124.47	New Guernsey Secs (NS&Z)	149.56
Undervalued Assets	122.31	Broadgate	135.49
Kleinwort 2nd Endowment Policy	117.95	Kleinwort Endowment Policy	128.00
Welsh Industrial	117.56		
Sector Average	118.38	Sector Average	160.43

INCOME GROWTH

ONE YEAR		THREE YEARS	
Morgan Grenfell Equity Income	126.90	Morgan Grenfell Equity Income	207.75
TR City of London	121.52	Value and Income	206.88
Temple Bar	119.59	Aberforth Spl Lvl Units	181.85
Lowland	118.98	Lowland	175.53
Averforth Spl Lvl Units	118.53	Temple Bar	171.29
Dunedin Income Growth	118.38	TR City of London	161.14
Sector Average	116.71	Sector Average	167.61

Unit Trusts: £100 invested offer-to-bid with net income reinvested and charges taken into account. Investment trusts: mid-market to mid-market price with net income reinvested but no charges taken into account. Figures as at November 27, 1995. Source: Micropal.

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THE M&G PEP

Caroline Merrell looks at some of the environmental factors that now affect house sales

Pylon blight spreads as lenders shun the risks

The Government this week refused to bow to pressure to bail out the beleaguered housing market. In his Budget statement, Kenneth Clarke said he had considered all options and had decided against a rescue because of the expense involved.

He added he was optimistic about a recovery in prices next year. "I remain convinced that what the housing market needs above all is steady growth and low inflation.

"All the major lenders expect prices to start to rise next year, and as confidence grows, I expect the market to start to move soon," he said.

UBS said last week it expected house prices to rise by 2 per cent next year, and by a further 9 per cent the year after.

A glimmer of house price recovery linked with a realisation that homeowners cannot expect any special government treatment, added to this week's cut in interest rates, could be the trigger that many people need to try to move. However, if you have not moved for a while, you may be in for a shock. A number of environmental factors now affect your ability to either borrow for house purchase or sell the home you have.

One of the most recent developments has been a change in surveyors' and lenders' attitudes to property that is close to electricity pylons or substations. Five years ago, research linking the incidence of child cancer and leukaemia to the electromagnetic fields surrounding these sorts of structures proved to be inconclusive. However, research carried out over the past three years, although not conclusive, does point to a link.

Richard Doll, honorary consultant with the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, said that more extensive research was currently being carried out. "Recent research has given support to the idea that there could be a link between certain sorts of cancer and electricity pylons. The research is not conclusive, and the cases are very few."

However, the public's perception about the risk is such that surveyors may choose to reduce valuations by between 20 to 50 per cent, and some lenders may choose not to lend on this type of property at all.

Jeff Seymour, Alliance & Leicester's corporate communications manager, said it might not lend an applicant money to buy a house that was close to an electrical installation. He said: "We have to be very careful. It would be a major consideration."

Other lenders, such as the Halifax and the Nationwide, say they would take every case on its merits and claim they do not have a specific policy concerning pylons. However, they point out they have to be convinced that should they have to repossess the property for any reason, they will be able to sell it on. John Meredith, of Meredith & Co, a London-based surveyor, said: "It is all to do with the public's perception of risk. If you have two identical properties, one of which is next to an electricity pylon, then you do not buy it." Mr Meredith has written to the major building societies to try to find out what their views are. He said their replies indicated that they had not yet formed a consensus on the subject. But he said houses situated in electrical magnetic fields could face being valued at a 20-50 per cent discount.



Electricity structures near homes can devalue property

There are various things to look out for when looking for your dream home, to ensure that you do not waste time and effort, only to find that your lender is unwilling to give you the money. Among them are:

■ **Structure and materials** — non-standard building materials, such as certain types of reinforced concrete, may preclude getting a mortgage. Steel-framed buildings could also be turned down.

Timber-framed buildings, where there is no outer skin, could also be suspect. These buildings could have a shorter life than more traditional structures. Buildings where asbestos is present could also be vetoed.

■ **Land contamination** — you may not be able to borrow money to buy a house if it is on or near contaminated land.

Other factors that surveyors will take into account when valuing property are:

■ **Area** — Proximity to good schools and amenities is considered when making valuations, as are any plans for roads or buildings.

■ **State of repair** — the state of the property, its decor and condition are of major importance in valuations.

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Why marriage makes you a loser

WINNERS & LOSERS

In spite of John Major's pledges to support the institution of marriage and strengthen the family, Pamela Cantle will lose out on part of her state pension benefits because she has married.

Mrs Cantle has discovered that she will be paid a basic pension of only £41.20 a week, £17.65 less than the standard basic pension of £58.85 a week, after marrying her second husband, Peter.

The problem has arisen because, like many women, Mrs Cantle took several years out of employed work — from 1965 to 1977 — to bring up her children. During the 12 years when she was not earning an income, she paid no National Insurance contributions.

In 1986, nine years after she had divorced her first husband, Mrs Cantle checked to see how much state pension she would be entitled to on the basis of her current contributions.

The Department of Social Security told her that National Insurance contributions made by her first husband during their marriage could be used to enhance her own pension rate. But she would still have to make National Insurance contributions for another eight years to qualify for a standard basic pension.

Since then, Mrs Cantle has worked and paid the full stamp, believing that this would satisfy the contribution conditions. However, she has now discovered that because she remarried in 1992, she no longer qualifies for the contributions made by her first husband.

She says: "I married a retired batchelor who had obviously never paid a married man's stamp. I believed that as I carried on working and paid the full stamp that getting married would not affect my position.

"I was told at the Barnstaple DSS office by a sympathetic counter clerk that my 'mistake was in marrying'. My husband and I are most concerned. Surely there cannot be a penalty for marriage?"

Unfortunately, there is. When Mrs Cantle first checked her pension entitlement, she was advised that the details applied only if she did not remarry before pension age. A letter from the DSS said: "If you do remarry before then, your potential retirement pension will have to be worked out again."

A DSS spokeswoman confirms that if a woman remarries before pension age, her entitlement to any benefits from contributions made by her first husband is nullified. She says: "The leaflets on National Insurance and pensions have always spelt it out very clearly."

This is no consolation for Mrs Cantle. She says: "I am pretty furious. It seems a severe penalty for marriage and I would like to see others warned of the regulations."

The Benefits Agency publishes a *Guide to Retirement Pensions*. To obtain a copy, call 0800 666555 or visit your local Benefits Agency office.

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Ernie's latest millionaire is new bondholder

Premium Bonds offer a risk-free chance of winning £1 million. **Karen Zagor** reports

For two months running, the Premium Bond £1 million prize has been won by a brand new bond in its first eligible month. Under National Savings rules, a bond must be held for a full calendar month after purchase before it can enter the draw. This month's winning bond was bought in October.

National Savings says it cannot calculate what the odds are of taking the jackpot on the first draw, but they do know that the odds of winning £1 million this month was 1 in 5.66 billion. The likelihood of wining any prize is 1 in 15,000 for each £1 bond.

This month's winning stake was £1,026. Using the law of averages, £1,250 worth of bonds should yield one prize a year. Prizes start at £50. The bigger prizes include two prizes of £100,000, three of £50,000, four of £25,000, ten of £10,000 and 25 of £5,000. There is only one £1 million prize a month.

This month's winner lives in Gloucestershire. Southerners have won 13 of the 20 jackpot draws since the £1 million prize was introduced in 1993. This has created a myth that the draw has a southern bias. In reality, southerners buy more bonds so they are more likely to win a prize. Prizewinning numbers are chosen using an electronic random number generator called Ernie. Ernie's output is monitored each month by the Government Actuary to ensure that each eligible bond has an equal chance of winning.

Premium Bonds can be bought at any post office or by responding to a National Savings newspaper advertisement. The minimum purchase is £100, but big spenders can buy up to £20,000. You can always cash in your Premium Bonds, but you will lose the interest the stake could have earned if it had been invested elsewhere.

Unlike the National Lottery, all Premium Bond prizes are meant to be distributed after each monthly draw. For the big prizes down to £50,000, National Savings will notify you in person of the win. Winners of £25,000 are notified by recorded delivery; winners of smaller amounts, by post.

If you have moved and think you may have an unclaimed winning bond, National Savings says it can check your numbers against all draws since 1957 to make sure you have not been overlooked.

Letters, page 39



Half a million people could soon be celebrating with a tax-free lump sum

Tessa to bring new year cheer

Marianne Curphey checks out reinvestment opportunities

Banks and building societies are relying on savers' apathy and offering low bonuses to customers looking to reinvest their maturing Tessas (tax-exempt special savings accounts) next month.

Half a million people will celebrate the new year with a tax-free lump sum of up to £12,000 if they have held their five-year-old Tessa to maturity. However, their delight may turn to disappointment when they discover that the bank or building society is offering them little incentive to reinvest. The table shows what each fully topped-up Tessa is now worth.

Tessas were the success story of John Major's short tenure as Chancellor, but Kenneth Clarke was said to have considered scrapping or changing them in the Budget. In the end, they did not get a mention.

Introduced in January 1991, many variable-rate Tessas began life paying out an interest rate way beyond the dreams of today's savers. All the major institutions were offering rates of between 13 and 15 per cent.

This week, the banks and buildings societies have been writing to existing customers informing them of rates for Tessa II, which must be opened within six months of Tessa I maturing. The original capital invested — up to £9,000 per person — can be rolled over, but the interest, which could be as high as £3,000, cannot.

Worries about an imminent cut in interest rates mean many institutions are hedging their bets and waiting until nearer Christmas to reveal details of fixed-rate Tessas. However, variable rates are being posted to existing customers this week.

One reader with a maturing Tessa told us he had been finding it difficult to shop around: "In order to assess performance, the only figures which matter to me are final values for current Tessas, but these are elusive numbers".

Midland Bank says its priority is to offer its Tessa customers a disciplined savings scheme rather than the best rates and expects many of them to roll over into Tessa II.

It said: "Our current rate is 6.75 per cent variable and we have not been the highest payers. However, we are confident people will stay with us and use our Tessa to make regular savings contributions rather than chase the highest rates at smaller societies."

Neither Abbey National nor the Yorkshire Building Society intends to offer loyalty bonuses to existing customers to persuade them to reinvest.

However, Yorkshire promises all customers a "guaranteed rate" of above the average variable Tessa rate from the top five societies. The current variable rate is 6.65 and the minimum deposit is £100. There are penalties for withdrawing money early.

Abbey National is planning to release details of Tessa II next week. They are believed to include a scheme to protect investors with a fixed-rate Tessa from losing out if interest rates rise. Its current variable rate is 6.8 per cent.

The Halifax says it will give reinvestors a £50 bonus when their new fund matures in five years, plus a lump sum equivalent to 2.5 per cent of the balance on maturity. Its current rate is 5.90 per cent.

The Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society is giving existing customers a loyalty bonus interest rate of 0.5 per cent in addition to the variable rate of 7.25 per cent being offered to new customers transferring from other societies.

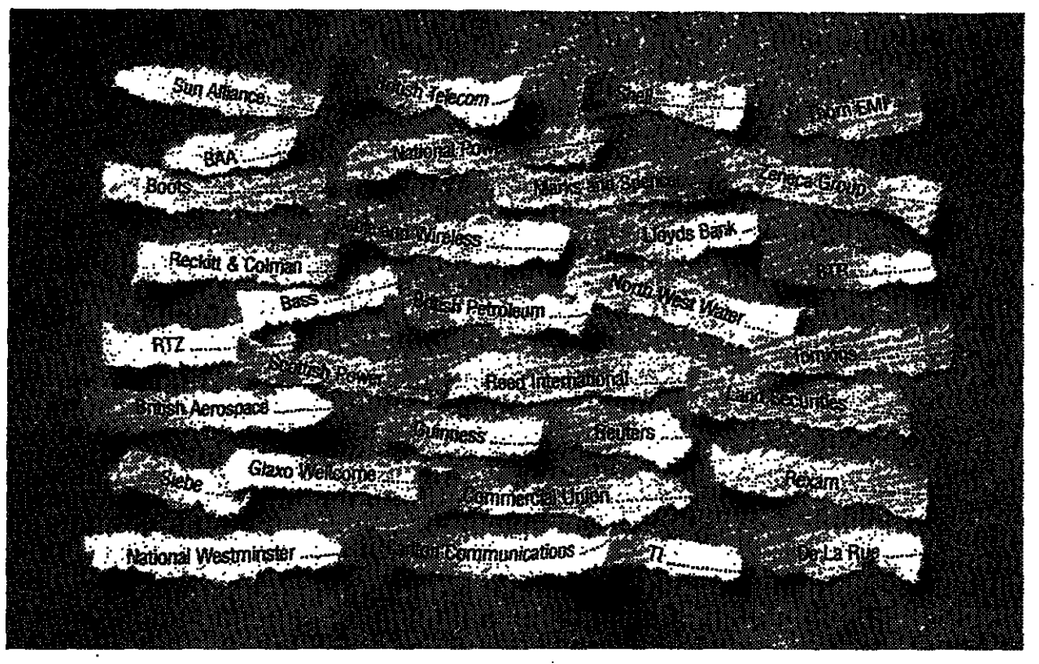
If the interest rate remained unchanged for a year, this would yield an extra £46 per year on a balance of £9,000, the maximum sum that can be reinvested in Tessa II.

HSBC is hoping to capitalise on Tessa switchers by launching its first Tessa product — a FTSE index-linked Tessa with a guaranteed rate of 5 per cent per year, plus up to 10 per cent a year bonus payment depending on how far the index rises.

THE TOP 30 TESSAS

Kent Reliance Building Society	£12,400.28
Dunfermline Building Society	£12,343.14
National Counties Building Society	£12,317.55
Julian Hodge Bank	£12,226.74
Melton Mowbray Building Society	£12,221.02
Ecology Building Society	£12,192.20
Ipswich Building Society	£12,187.05
West Bromwich Building Society	£12,183.42
Allied Trust Bank (Premier)	£12,171.55
Exeter Bank	£12,162.32
Saffron Walden Building Society	£12,150.50
Buckinghamshire Building Society	£12,140.00
Stafford Railway Building Society	£12,138.67
Tipton & Coseley Building Society	£12,128.47
Monmouthshire Building Society	£12,115.53
Darlington Building Society	£12,105.85
Bradford & Bingley Building Society (High Return)	£12,093.40
Cheshire Building Society	£12,091.28
Lambeth Building Society	£12,087.61
Derbyshire Building Society	£12,058.42
Vernon Building Society	£12,058.25
Progressive Building Society (NI)	£12,053.50
Halifax Building Society	£12,050.69
Marsden Building Society	£12,048.00
Cambridge Building Society	£12,045.85
Beverley Building Society	£12,039.42
Bristol & West Building Society (Bonus)	£12,019.36
Londonderry Prov Building Society	£12,012.60
Woolwich Building Society	£12,011.82
Mercantile Building Society	£12,001.80

Projected maturity values of variable rate Tessas, assuming that the maximum investment was made at launch and maximum top-ups made on each anniversary.
Source MoneyFacts



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Please send me details of the Prolific UK Blue Chip Unit Trust. Please return this coupon to Prolific Unit Trust Managers Limited, FREEPOST, Kendal, Cumbria LA8 8BR.

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Postcode 03 02 L 5

*SOURCE MICROPAL, UK EQUITY GENERAL SECTOR, OFFER TO BID, WITH NET INCOME REINVESTED SINCE LAUNCH ON 7TH JUNE 1991 TO 1ST NOVEMBER 1995. PLEASE REMEMBER THAT PAST PERFORMANCE IS NOT NECESSARILY A GUIDE TO THE FUTURE. THE PRICE OF UNITS AND THE INCOME FROM THEM MAY GO DOWN AS WELL AS UP. EXCHANGE RATES MAY ALSO CAUSE THE VALUE OF OVERSEAS INVESTMENTS TO GO DOWN OR UP. ISSUED BY PROLIFIC UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LIMITED, A MEMBER OF THE SCOTTISH PROVIDENT GROUP, REGULATED BY IMRO AND THE PERSONAL INVESTMENT AUTHORITY AND ALSO A MEMBER OF AUTIF.

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Projected high street bank TESSA returns on maturity are as follows: TSB £11,914.32*, Abbey National £11,845.81†, Royal Bank of Scotland £11,686.47††, NatWest £11,656.55**. Figures based on following assumptions: A) Maximum amounts permissible under TESSA rules are invested at earliest opportunity each year. B) Product was taken out with the bank named from date of launch of that bank's TESSA upon 1991 terms for 5 year period. Rates used for calculations are those relevant to this same account regardless of whether or not account remained open to new investors thereafter. C) Interest rates do not change from 31/8/95 to maturity date. D) Interest rates for all products are variable. †Refers to TESSA (First Edition). *Includes £30 bonus paid on maturity. †Includes bonus of 5% of total interest earned paid on maturity. Not available for TESSAs transferred in form another institution or a TESSA was opened after 25/5/94. ††Includes bonuses paid at maturity: 5% on capital and interest at maturity. Source. Bby's Guide 31/8/95. Withdrawals from TESSA accounts in excess of 75% of interest earned will result in loss of tax exempt status and closure of the account. Minimum savings from £9,000. Not available in Channel Islands or Isle of Man. Some calls may be recorded & monitored. TSB Bank plc, Victoria House, Victoria Square, Birmingham B1 1BZ. Registered in England and Wales. Number 1099268. TSB Bank Scotland plc, Henry Duncan House, 120 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 4LH. Registered in Scotland. Number 95237.

Yes. I would like to receive more information on how to re-invest my TESSA money.

Surname: (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) .....

First Name: .....

Address: .....

.....

.....

Postcode: .....

Send to: TSB Bank plc, FREEPOST CF4244, PO Box 758, Tredegar Park, Newport, Gwent NP1 9YZ.

We'd like to contact you from time to time with details about services from TSB and other TSB Group companies if we think they'd interest you. However, if you'd prefer not to be told about these services, please tick this box ☐.

70608

THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

Broker adds Peps to share service

Barclays Stockbrokers, which already offers clients the freedom to buy and sell shares direct by telephone, is extending its services to include self-select and single company Pep transactions. Barclays believes that this new Pep deal is ideal for investors with shares in privatised utilities and those who participate in profit-sharing schemes. Subscribers will also qualify for air mileage awards and a free bi-monthly investment magazine. Call 0800 551177.

■ *Butterworths Budget Tax Tables 1995*, a booklet providing up-to-date details of the Chancellor of the Exchequer's proposals and explanations, is now available. Accompanying each table is a commentary by Touche Ross, enabling readers to assess the immediate and long-term effects of this year's Budget. To obtain a copy of the booklet, which is priced at £5.95, call Butterworths Customers Services on 0171 400 2973.

■ *Money Management for the over 55s* and *Coping with Debt* are the latest in a series of personal finance guides from Liverpool Victoria. To aid primarily the blind and partially sighted, the new editions have also been produced on audio cassette. *Money Management for the over 55s* covers issues ranging from state pensions and retirement to dealing with windfalls and providing for dependants. *Coping with Debt* looks at causes of insolvency, how to recognise the warning signs, and advice on how to avoid the debt trap. For booklets and cassettes, call 0800 550 050.

■ People often have no financial protection in the event of serious medical problems. *Serious Illness ... It could happen to You*, a 14-page guide sponsored by General Accident Life, outlines the problems people face because of life-threatening and degenerative illnesses and includes case studies based on actual claims paid to holders of General Accident Life serious illness policies. It explores the practical difficulties presented by disability, examines possible sources of financial support, and explains the potential role of serious illness insurance. For a copy, telephone General Accident on 0500 103 103.

LIZANNE ROSE

SAVERS' BEST BUYS

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Britannia BS 01538 392808	Capital Trust	Postal	£2,000	5.60	Yly
Co-operative Bank 0345 252000	Pathfinder	Instant	£5,000	5.90	Mly
Leeds & Holbeck BS 0113 2438292	Albion	Postal	£10,000	6.00	Yly
Manchester BS 0161 8395545	Money by Mail	Postal	£25,000	6.25	Yly

FIXED RATES	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505	Investment Cert	1yr bond	£1,000	6.60	F/OM
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505	Investment Cert	2yr bond	£1,000	6.80	F/OM
Brmnghm Midshires BS 0645 720721	Quantum Fixed	3yr bond	£5,000	7.25	F/Yly
Brmnghm Midshires BS 0645 720721	Millennium Bond	4yr bond	£5,000*	7.75	F/Yly

NOTICE ACCOUNTS AND BONDS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Nottingham BS 0115 9481444	Postmark	7 day p	£2,500	5.90	Yly
Scarborough BS 0800 590578	Scarborough 50	60 day p	£1,000	6.60	Yly
Northern Rock BS 0500 505000	Postal 90	90 day p	£10,000	6.80	Yly
Halifax BS 01422 333333	Special Rsrv	1 yr bnd	£10,000	6.90	OM

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

CREDIT CARDS	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	0.98%G	12.40%	Nil C
Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	1.00%	14.60%	£12
Royal Bank of Scotland 0800 161616	MasterCard	1.14%	14.50%	Nil C

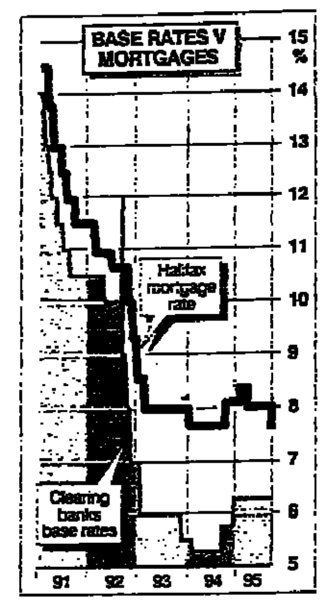
PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

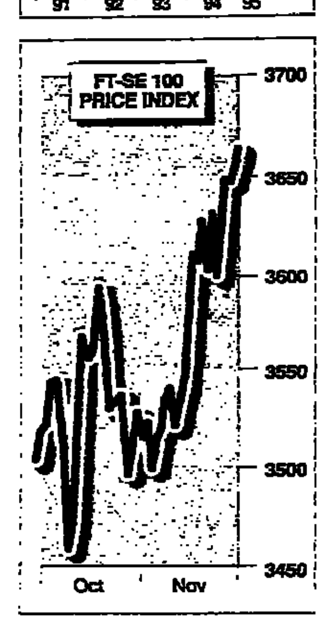
PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3yrs with insurance	no insurance
Midland 0800 180180	15.40%	£116.54	£103.14
N&P BS 0800 808080	15.50%	£118.22	£103.29
Clydesdale Bank 0800 240024	16.20%	£113.94	£103.33

Nb. A - Feeder account required. In the interest paid columns, C = no interest free period D = annual fee rebated £1.5K+ charged per annum E = Annual fee waived for 1st year for new accounts F = fixed rate (all other rates are variable); OM denotes interest paid on maturity

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE
PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01692 500 677)





NATIONAL SAVINGS

	Gross rate	At tax rates 25%	At tax rates 40%	Min/maximum investment	Notice	Contact
Ordinary A/c[1]	2.00	1.50	1.20	10-10,000		01416494555
Investment A/c* ♦	5.25	3.94	3.15	20-[illegible]	1mth	01416494555
Income Bond* ♦	6.50	4.88	3.90	2,000-24,999	3mth	01253766151
First Opt Bond[4]	6.40	4.80	3.84	1,000-250,000		01416362558
42nd Issue Cert†‡	5.85			100-10,000	8day	01913864900
Children's Bond†	7.85			25-1,000	1mth	01416362635
Gen Ext Rate	3.51					
Capital Bond[5] ♦	7.75	5.81	4.65	100-250,000	8day	01416362603
8th Index Linked†[3]	3.00			100-10,000	8day	01913864900
Pensnrs Bond S2 ♦	7.50	5.63	4.50	500-20,000[6]	60day	01253766151

[1] first £70 (£140 jt) of int tax free, inst accs for up to £100 [2] Additional hdgs up to £20,000 for reinvested proceeds †Tax free *Rates gross and vble ‡Guaranteed when held for 5 years [4] 0.3% net bonus for £20,000+ [5] £40,000 jt in addition to S1 holdings ♦Taxable but cred in full

PENSION ANNUITIES

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann) Male:	Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Prudential ....Level	£10,377	£11,391	£12,758
Canada Life............Level	£10,058	£11,227	£12,810
Standard Life ....Level	£10,136	£11,204	£12,584
Equitable Life.........Level	£10,277	£11,187	£12,381
Royal Life ....Level	£10,047	£11,183	£12,723

SINGLE LIFE Female:	Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Prudential ....Level	£9,625	£10,355	£11,428
Royal Life ....Level	£9,313	£10,149	£11,380
Canada Life ....Level	£9,230	£10,069	£11,300
Equitable Life ....Level	£9,350	£10,027	£10,975
Norwich Union ......Level	£9,277	£10,025	£11,129

JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)	Male: Age 60 / Female: Age 55	Male: Age 65 / Female: Age 60	Male: Age 70 / Female: Age 65
Prudential ....Level	£9,237	£9,803	£10,599
Equitable Life.........Level	£9,046	£9,563	£10,276
Generali ....Level	£8,929	£9,547	£10,401
Royal Life ....Level	£8,855	£9,496	£10,413
Canada Life ....Level	£8,815	£9,474	£10,408

Source: Annuity Direct (0171 588 9393)

Compiled by: Lizanne Rose

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME
Rates as at November 30, 1995

	Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year			
	5,000	AIG Life	5.10
	10,000	AIG Life	5.15
	20,000	AIG Life	5.20
	50,000	AIG Life	5.25
2 Years			
	5,000	AIG Life	5.28
	10,000	AIG Life	5.43
	20,000	AIG Life	5.48
	50,000	AIG Life	5.53
3 Years			
	1,000	Premium Life	5.30
	5,000	Financial Assr	5.50
	20,000	Financial Assr	5.60
	50,000	Financial Assr	5.70
4 Years			
	1 000	Premium Life	5.80
5 Years			
	1,000	Premium Life	6.00
	3,000	Abbey Life	6.20
	15,000	Abbey Life	6.40
	50,000	Abbey Life	6.60

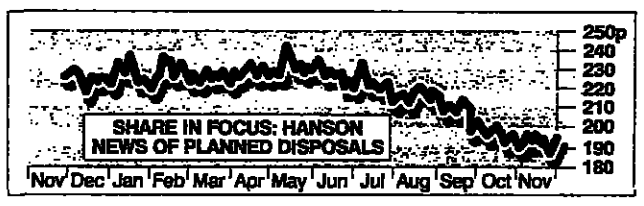
Source: Chamberlain de Broë 0171-434 4222. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

PIBS

FIXED RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	% Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Birmingham Midshires	9.375%	99.46	9.416	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	122.03	9.509	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	135.97	9.541	100.20	10,000
Bristol & West	13.375%	138.87	9.614	100.34	1,000
Britannia	13.000%	134.43	9.649	100.42	1,000
Coventry	12.125%	125.55	9.635	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	116.09	10.114	100.25	10,000
Halifax	8.750%	93.65	9.343	100.62	50,000
Halifax	12.000%	126.94	9.248	100.28	50,000
Halifax	13.625%	145.14	9.366	100.00	50,000
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	138.39	9.642	100.23	1,000
Newcastle	10.750%	114.22	9.404	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	12.625%	133.58	9.433	100.45	1,000
Northern Rock	12.625%	135.57	9.296	100.14	1,000
Skipton	12.875%	135.22	9.499	100.48	1,000

FLOATING RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	Issue price	Minimum purchase
Cheshire (28/03-28/09)	9.24766%	103.93	100.00	1,000
First National	9.30000%	100.75	100.00	1,000

PIBS = Permanent interest-bearing shares
Source ABN AMRO Hoare Govett — 0171 601 0101



LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Bristol & West 0800 100117	0.70	£15k+	90	Fixed to 30.11.96
Northern Rock 0800 591 500	1.59	to £100k	90	6.00% discount to 1.2.97
Yorkshire 0800 378836	1.85	neg	95	6% disc 1 year, 2% disc 18 mths
Banks				
Midland 0800 494999	2.79	£100k+	80	4.86% discount for 1 year
National Westminst 0121 2342000	2.54	£15k+	75	5.20% discount for 12 months

LARGER LOANS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Bristol & West 0800 100117	0.70	£15k+	90	Fxd to 30.11.96
Scarborough 0800 590547	0.75	£15,001-£100k	95	7.24%disc 6 mth 2% 6mth,0.5% 1y
Hinckley & Rugby 0800 774499	0.60	to £150k	70	7.14% disc 9mth
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 01734 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	7.51%dsc-6 mth 3% dsc-6 mth
Bank of Scotland 0131 243 5735	1.50	to £200k	95	6.49% discount for 6 months

FIRST-TIME BUYERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Brad & Bingley 0800 252 993	1.89	no min/max	95	fixed to 1.12.96
Bristol & West 0800 100117	2.75	£15k+	95	4.74% discount 12 months
Skipton 0800 446776	1.84	£25-150k	95	6% disc 5 mnths 1.75% disc 1 year
Banks				
Midland Bank 0800 494999	3.29	£30k+	95	4.86% discount for 1 year
Bnk of Ireland 01734 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	7.26% disc 6 mth, 3% disc 6 mths

Larger lenders, larger loans and first-time buyers tables supplied by Blay's Guides Ltd. Further information: Blay's Guides, 01753 880482.

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UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE Aegon House, Lanark Square, London E14 9XS 0171 538 8800				
Balanced	512.90	542.60	+ 6.20	...
UK Equity	649.00	686.80	+ 3.70	...
Property	510.30	540.10	- 0.60	...
Fixed Interest	356.80	377.60	+ 8.10	...
Money	260.10	275.30	- 0.30	...
International	440.00	465.70	-13.20	...
ABBEY LIFE Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth BH8 8AL 01202 292373				
Property Fd Inc	249.50	262.70	+ 1.20	...
-do- Acc	491.20	517.10	+ 2.30	...
Equity Fd Inc	192.70	202.90	+ 2.70	...
-do- Acc	264.40	278.40	+ 3.80	...
Selective Fd	522.50	550.10	+ 3.90	...
Money Fd	393.50	414.30	- 0.20	...
Prop Fd Ser 4	374.30	394	+ 0.10	...
Equity Ser 4	246.50	259.50	+ 2.80	...
Man Ser 4	718.30	756.00	+ 9.40	...
Conv Ser 4	340.80	358.80	+ 0.10	...
Money Ser 4	340.50	358.50	- 0.20	...
Fixed Int Ser 4	374.60	394.40	- 4.40	...
American Ser 4	580.30	610.90	+23.70	...
High Inc Ser 4	751.80	791.40	- 3.40	...
Indexed Inv Ser 4	224.30	236.10	- 0.30	...
Japan Ser 4	355.90	374.70	-13.30	...
ALBANY LIFE 3 Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1AJ 01707 42311				
Equity Fd Acc	1724.90	1815.70	+16.00	...
European Fd Acc	399.60	420.60	- 0.50	...
Fixed Int Acc	550.70	579.70	+ 5.00	...
Gtd Money Acc	346.90	365.10	+ 0.40	...
Intl Managed Acc	653.30	687.50	+ 9.90	...
Int Fxd Int Acc	357.70	376.50	+ 4.20	...
Japan Fund	262.10	275.80	+14.10	...
N American Acc	376.90	396.70	+12.30	...
Prop Fd Acc	454.70	478.60	+ 0.50	...
Multiple Inv Acc	1123.30	1182.40	+14.10	...
ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE Swindon SN1 1EL 01793 514514				
Fxd Int Dep Acc	387.70	408.20	+ 0.30	...
Equity Acc	1570.70	1653.40	+24.10	...
Property Acc	605.20	637.10	- 0.40	...
Far East Acc	320.50	337.40	+13.10	...
Managed Capital	579.90	610.50	+ 7.80	...
-do- Acc	1204.90	1268.40	+16.70	...
Overseas Acc	1042.40	1097.30	+ 5.40	...
Gilt Edged Acc	528.90	556.80	+ 5.60	...
Amer Equity Acc	964.30	1015.10	+27.60	...
Amer Man Acc	404.10	425.40	+11.10	...
Amer Prop Acc	121.90	128.40	+ 2.70	...
Distribution Bonds	24.80	26.20	+ 0.10	...
AXA EQUITY & LAW LIFE ASSURANCE Amersham Road, High Wycombe, Bucks 01494 463463				
Reserve Ser 6	170.50	179.40	+ 1.00	...
Balced Ser 6	794.80	836.60	+16.00	...
Opportunity Ser 6	180.40	189.80	+ 2.70	...
Distribution Ser 6	103.80	109.20	+ 0.50	6.84
UK Equities Ser 6	1108.40	1166.70	-10.90	...
Higher Inc Ser 6	1165.50	1226.80	+ 6.60	...
North Amer Ser 6	557.80	587.10	+23.60	...
Far East Ser 6	587.10	618.00	+27.60	...
Europe Ser 6	423.70	446.00	+ 4.60	...
Intnl Ser 6	635.70	669.10	+23.00	...
Property Ser 6	568.40	598.30	+ 0.80	...
Fixed Int Ser 6	477.40	502.50	+ 3.70	...
Ind-Lnkd Sec Sa	192.10	202.20	+ 0.60	...
Gteed Dep Ser 6	309.30	325.50	+ 0.10	...
BARCLAYS LIFE 252 Romford Road, London E7 9JB 0181 534 5544				
Equity Acc	950.00	1000.00	+ 7.60	...
-do- Initial	605.90	637.80	+ 3.00	...
Gilt Edged Acc	418.50	440.60	+ 2.90	...
-do- Initial	269.30	283.50	+ 1.10	...
International Acc	439.20	462.40	+11.30	...
-do- Initial	280.80	295.60	+ 6.30	...
Managed Acc	580.40	611.00	+ 7.50	...
-do- Initial	372.40	392.00	+ 3.70	...
Money Acc	302.40	318.40	+ 0.30	...
Property Acc	306.40	322.60	+ 0.30	...
-do- Initial	195.70	206.00	+ 0.10	...
America Acc	343.50	361.60	+10.00	...
Australia Acc	232.60	244.90	+ 5.80	...
Financial Acc	415.90	437.80	+ 4.00	...
500 Accum	480.30	505.60	+ 2.20	...
Japan Genl Acc	319.00	335.80	+17.00	...
Income Acc	574.70	605.00	+ 3.70	...
Leisure Acc	283.70	298.70	+ 2.80	...
Special Sits Acc	277.40	292.10	+ 4.80	...
Univ Tech Acc	182.10	191.70	+ 6.30	...
BLACK HORSE LIFE Mountbatten House, Chatham, Kent ME4 4JF 01634 834000				
The Managed Fd	883.63	883.63	+ 8.39	...
Income Fund	834.18	878.08	+ 4.90	...
Extra Income	760.07	800.08	+ 4.32	...
Worldwide Gth	533.99	562.10	-17.83	...
Balanced Fund	736.32	775.08	+ 7.66	...
Smllr Cos Recov	872.73	918.67	+ 8.67	...
N Amer & Genrl	423.90	446.22	+14.09	...
Pacific Basin	423.57	445.80	+14.94	...
German Growth	251.11	264.33	+ 4.37	...
Japan Growth	193.89	204.10	+ 7.39	...
The UK Gth Fd	236.33	248.77	+ 2.89	...
Contl Euro Gth	149.85	157.74	+ 0.67	...
Property Fund	411.33	432.98	- 0.84	...
Fixed Interest	341.31	359.28	+ 2.75	...
Cash Fund	294.33	309.83	+ 0.28	...
Managed Inv	532.09	560.09	+ 3.21	...
Nth Amer Recov	286.47	301.55	+10.37	...
Abtrust Fund				
Managed Gth	520.93	548.35	+ 3.46	...
BRITANNIA LIFE ASSURANCE PO Box 37, Greenock, Renfrewshire 01475 886000				
Measured Perf	176.80	187.00	+ 5.80	...
Performance Plus	187.30	198.10	+ 9.40	...
With Profit Perf	178.60	188.90	+ 0.20	...
UK Opportunity	209.50	221.60	+ 6.90	...
Euro Opportunity	242.80	256.90	+ 7.60	...
North Amer Opp	191.80	202.90	+10.70	...
Far East Opp	198.70	210.20	-11.90	...
Gwth Prop Ser 1	158.90	167.30	...	...
Gth Prop Ser 2	193.80	205.00	+ 0.30	...
Fixed Int	210.60	222.80	- 1.30	...
Cash	163.30	172.80	+ 0.30	6.74
Overseas	215.80	228.30	-10.90	...
Formerly LAS				
Managed Fund	376.50	396.40	+15.20	...
UK Equity	652.30	686.70	+11.20	...
Property	259.90	273.60	+ 4.90	...
Money Market	261.40	275.20	+ 0.20	...
Fixed Interest	315.00	331.60	+ 2.90	...
Japan	364.90	384.20	+18.00	...
North America	179.10	188.60	+ 9.70	...
International	345.50	363.70	+19.20	...
European	317.00	333.70	+ 7.70	...
Far East	141.90	149.40	+ 7.00	...
CANADA LIFE 2-6 High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA 01707 51122				
Equity Growth 1	277.80	...	...	...
Managed	360.90	379.90	+ 2.90	...
Property	241.70	254.50	+ 2.00	...
Gilt & Fxd Int	259.70	273.40	+ 2.20	...
Equity	410.80	432.50	+ 3.60	...
Cash	223.70	235.50	+ 0.30	...
CLife Euro Mgd	420.80	443.00	- 4.30	...
CLife Intl Fd	382.20	402.40	+ 8.70	...
Managed Fund	795.40	837.30	-14.80	...
Property Fund	551.10	580.10	...	...
Equity Fund	1049.00	1104.20	+17.60	...
Gilt Edged Fd	665.80	700.80	+ 7.60	...
Deposit Fund	344.70	362.80	+ 2.20	...
Investment Fd	446.00	468.30	+ 3.30	...
International	600.90	632.50	+19.70	...
CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE Sentry House, 500 Avebury Blvd, Milton Keynes MK9 2NU. 01908 606101				
Property Fund	161.30	169.80	- 0.90	...
Managed Fund	697.50	734.30	-10.30	...
Equity Fund	405.90	427.30	+ 4.70	...
CLERICAL MEDICAL/FIDELITY INVESTMENTS Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH. 0117 9290566				
Assurance Funds				
Sapphire Mixed	317.60	334.40	+ 7.10	...
Ruby	187.60	197.50	+ 2.90	...
Emerald	154.10	162.30	+ 0.70	...
Equity	366.00	385.30	+ 6.70	...
Property	230.80	243.00	- 0.20	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	220.80	232.50	+ 2.10	...
Indexed Secs	179.30	188.80	+ 0.70	...
Cash	195.20	205.50	+ 0.20	...
Nth American	275.60	290.20	+12.50	...
Far East	339.10	357.00	+15.40	...
International	262.20	276.10	+10.00	...
Special Sits	380.60	400.90	+ 4.00	...
Intl Income	321.50	338.50	+ 4.00	...
American Inc	227.70	239.70	+ 8.10	...
European	360.40	379.40	+ 4.50	...
Japanese	138.40	145.70	+ 7.20	...
SE Asia	381.80	401.90	+14.50	...
With Profits Reg	175.20	184.50	+ 0.20	...
-do- Spec	175.20	184.50	+ 0.20	...
Flexible Retirement Plans Funds				
Mixed	365.60	384.90	+ 7.40	...
Equity	444.50	467.90	+ 6.80	...
Property	211.80	223.00	+ 0.10	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	280.40	295.20	+ 2.90	...
Index Linked	189.90	199.90	+ 0.80	...
Cash	264.10	278.10	+ 0.20	...
Nth American	346.40	364.70	+16.70	...
Far East Acc	323.00	340.10	-18.70	...
International Acc	334.80	352.50	+12.40	...
Special Sits	576.00	606.40	+13.70	...
European Flex	510.00	536.90	+ 4.20	...
COLONIAL MUTUAL GROUP Colonial Mutual House, Chatham Maritime, Kent ME4 4YY. 01634 890 000				
(Units): Key 1	223.51	...	...	...
-do- Pacemaker 1	331.33	...	...	...
-do- Cash	210.55	221.63	+ 0.15	...
-do- Equity	594.20	625.47	+ 6.60	...
-do- Fxd Int	389.09	409.57	+ 4.03	...
-do- Managed	426.74	449.20	+ 4.69	...
-do- Property	284.10	299.05	+ 1.21	...
(Pensn) Cash Cap	211.61	222.76	+ 0.10	...
-do- Cash Inv	320.72	337.61	+ 0.38	...
-do- Equity Cap	£15.58	£16.40	+20.13	...
-do- Equity Inv	£23.62	£24.86	+32.16	...
-do- Fixed Cap	421.22	443.40	+ 4.11	...
-do- Fixed Inv	638.39	672.00	+ 6.67	...
-do- Index Cap	209.48	220.52	+ 0.57	...
-do- Index Inv	317.49	334.21	+ 1.08	...
-do- Mngd Cap	625.76	658.71	+ 8.90	...
-do- Mngd Inv	948.38	998.31	+14.14	...
COMMERCIAL UNION St Helen's, 1 Undershaft, EC3 0171 283 7500				
Var Ann Acc (5) 1	803.62	...	+ 6.83	...
Var Ann (5) 1	101.09	...	+ 0.46	...
Prime Managed	440.80	464.10	...	...
Prime UK Equity	546.10	574.90	- 3.10	...
Prime Intl Equity	320.10	337.00	+ 3.40	...
Prime Property	253.20	266.60	+ 0.10	...
Prime Fxd Int	251.60	264.90	+ 1.40	...
Prime Index-Lnk	180.70	190.30	+ 0.40	...
Prime Cash	214.20	225.50	+ 0.10	...
CONFEDERATION LIFE Lytton Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2NN 01438 744840				
Managed Fund	1199.80	1262.90	+ 3.50	...
Equity Fund	1747.00	1838.90	+ 1.90	...
CROWN FINANCIAL Crown House, Woking GU21 1XW 01483 715033				
Life Mangd Acc	650.10	684.30	+ 8.50	...
Life Fxd Int Acc	405.50	426.80	+ 7.20	...
Life Equity Acc	930.20	979.10	+12.30	...
Life Money Acc	316.60	333.20	- 5.60	...
Life Inv Tst Acc	851.20	895.90	-11.20	...
Life Intl Acc	538.10	566.40	+19.70	...
Life High Inc Acc	881.60	927.90	-15.80	...
Life Property Acc	255.90	269.30	+ 9.30	...
Crown Brit Inv A	1416.60	...	...	...
Brewin Equity	794.00	835.70	+ 9.50	...
EAGLE STAR LIFE ASSURANCE Bath Road, Cheltenham, Gloucester GL53 7LQ. 01242 221311				
Secure Fund	182.50	192.20	+ 0.20	...
Managed Fund	263.60	277.50	- 4.00	...
-do- Series 2	174.70	183.90	+ 2.70	...
Adventurous Fd	219.80	231.40	+ 7.50	...
-do- Series 2	170.10	179.10	+ 5.80	...
Equity Mngd Fd	263.00	276.90	+ 4.50	...
-do- Series 2	176.40	185.70	+ 3.10	...
UK Pref Fxd Int	155.50	163.70	+ 1.20	...
UK Equity Fund	185.60	195.40	+ 1.90	...
Property Fund	121.60	128.00	...	...
Envrnmntl Opps	178.20	187.60	+ 1.10	...
Euro Fund	205.20	216.00	+ 2.50	...
North Amer Fd	231.80	244.00	+ 7.90	...
Oriental Ops	232.90	245.20	+ 8.10	...
Japanese Fund	121.80	128.30	+ 6.20	...
Bd & West Life	129.90	136.80	+ 0.10	...
Bd & West Pen	149.50	157.40	+ 0.20	...
EAGLE STAR/MIDLAND 60 St Mary Axe, London EC3. 0171 929 1111				
Eagle/Mid Uts	301.50	312.40	+ 1.70	2.93
FRIENDS' PROVIDENT Castle Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 3SH 01722 413366				
Managed	335.30	353.00	+ 3.70	...
UK Equity	450.50	474.30	+ 3.90	...
Stewardship	388.40	408.90	+ 0.30	...
Overseas Equity	312.40	328.90	+ 8.00	...
North American	175.10	184.40	+ 5.80	...
Pacific Basin	171.00	180.00	+ 6.40	...
European	253.70	267.10	+ 1.40	...
Property	182.00	191.60	- 9.50	...
Fixed Interest	257.50	271.10	+ 2.60	...
Index Linked	178.90	188.40	+ 0.70	...
Cash	208.50	219.50	+ 0.20	...
FP Life Assurance ex NM				
Fixed Interest	582.20	612.80	- 3.70	...
Managed	752.10	791.60	+ 7.50	...
Deposit	354.40	373.00	- 0.40	...
Property	475.40	500.40	- 9.60	...
American	492.90	518.80	+16.40	...
Australian	567.10	596.90	+17.10	...
European	614.60	646.90	+ 3.30	...
Income Acc	797.10	839.00	-12.50	...
-do- Dist	464.70	489.10	- 8.90	4.69
International	338.20	356.00	+ 8.70	...
Japan Smaller	456.50	480.50	+14.10	...
Singapore & Mal	396.50	417.30	+21.00	...
Smaller Cos	447.50	471.00	+ 6.80	...
Tokyo Fund	648.10	682.20	+27.80	...
UK Equity	636.40	669.80	+ 4.20	...
CCM Vangd Mg	828.20	871.70	+ 9.40	...
GT UNIT MANAGERS LTD Alban Gate, 14th Flr, 125 London Wall, Lond EC2Y 5AS. 0171 710 4567				
GT Plan Far East	325.70	342.90	+13.40	...
GT Plan Wwide	516.50	543.70	+13.00	...
GAN LIFE & PENSIONS Gan House, Harlow, Essex CM20 2EW. 01279 626262				
Portfolio Acc	748.40	748.40	+11.60	...
-do- Inv A	748.30	787.80	+12.30	...
UK Equity	450.10	473.90	+ 3.40	...
Gilt Plus	216.90	228.40	+ 1.20	...
Managed	334.90	352.60	+ 5.50	...
GENERAL ACCIDENT 2 Rougier St, York YO1 1HR. 01904 628982				
Managed	231.30	243.40	- 3.70	...
Unitized Profit	146.40	154.20	+ 0.30	...
UK Equity	321.80	338.70	+ 2.90	...
Fixed Int	210.20	221.10	+ 2.30	...
Index-Linked	175.70	184.90	+ 0.70	...
Cash Deposit	180.50	189.90	+ 0.10	...
Property	181.90	191.40	- 1.50	...
International	186.30	196.00	+ 4.10	...
American	193.60	203.70	+ 5.90	...
Japan	246.40	259.20	+11.90	...
Japan Smllr Cos	252.30	265.50	+12.30	...
European	199.30	209.70	- 1.60	...
Pacific Fund	296.70	312.20	+14.40	...
Conv Life	139.90	147.10	+ 0.80	...
GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE Royal Exchange, London EC3. 0171 283 7101				
Asr Prop Bds	830.50	865.10	-10.20	...
Managed Initial	506.00	532.60	+ 7.80	...
-do- Acc	737.80	776.60	+11.70	...
Equity Initial	777.60	818.50	+11.90	...
-do- Acc	1133.80	1193.50	+17.90	...
Fixed Int Initial	471.10	495.90	+ 5.10	...
-do- Acc	686.90	723.10	+ 7.80	...
Intl Initial	491.70	517.60	+11.40	...
-do- Acc	717.00	754.70	+16.90	...
Nth Amer Initial	221.10	232.70	+ 6.40	...
-do- Acc	293.40	308.80	+ 8.60	...
Pacific Initial	242.10	254.80	+10.90	...
-do- Acc	318.20	334.90	+14.40	...
Property Initial	178.20	187.60	- 2.40	...
-do- Acc	259.90	273.50	- 3.00	...
Index-Lnkd Initl	167.40	176.20	+ 0.20	...
-do- Acc	222.10	233.80	+ 0.40	...
Deposit Initial	201.00	211.50	...	...
-do- Acc	293.00	308.50	- 0.30	...
Euro Initial	114.00	120.00	+ 0.10	...
-do- Acc	139.80	147.20	+ 0.20	...
HALIFAX LIFE LTD PO Box 285, York YO1 1YB 01904 611110				
Life Funds				
Foundation	27.61	29.07	+ 0.38	...
Balanced	28.06	29.53	+ 0.40	...
Opportunity	28.54	30.04	+ 0.38	...
Deposit	24.51	25.80	+ 0.02	...
Pension Funds				
Foundation	28.33	29.82	+ 0.48	...
Balanced	28.43	29.93	+ 0.43	...
Opportunity	29.18	30.71	+ 0.41	...
Deposit	24.82	26.12	+ 0.03	...
HAMBRO ASSURED Harbour House, Portway, Preston, Lancs PR2 2PR. 01772 849000				
Managed	184.20	193.80	+ 2.20	...
-do- Pens	230.80	242.90	+ 3.60	...
UK Equity	192.40	202.50	+ 1.80	...
-do- Pens	225.60	237.40	+ 3.00	...
International	160.30	168.70	+ 3.00	...
-do- Pens	176.20	185.40	+ 4.10	...
Deposit	144.40	151.90	+ 0.10	...
-do- Pens	173.00	182.10	+ 0.20	...
HENDERSON ADMINISTRATION 3 Finsbury Avenue, London EC2M 2PA 0171 638 5757				
UK Equity Fd	382.50	407.00	+ 4.50	...
North America	421.70	448.70	-13.50	...
Far East Fund	592.30	630.20	-23.60	...
Global Managed	505.50	537.80	+ 9.80	...
Deposit Fund	237.60	250.20	+ 0.30	...
Prime Residential	139.30	146.70	...	...
European Fund	288.30	306.80	+ 1.00	...
Fixed Interest	66.20	70.40	+ 1.40	...
HILL SAMUEL LIFE NLA Tower, Addiscombe Road, Croydon 0181 686 4355				
Security Fund	587.50	621.70	+ 3.20	...
British Fund	605.40	640.70	+ 8.00	...
International	605.40	640.70	+18.50	...
Dollar Fund	482.10	510.20	-20.80	...
Capital Fund	543.50	575.20	+11.60	...
Income Fund	769.60	814.40	+ 6.20	...
Property Series A	469.10	496.50	+ 2.00	4.50
Property Units	775.70	814.50	+ 3.30	...
Financial Fund	696.40	737.00	+14.70	...
Managed Ser A	603.70	638.90	+11.50	...
Managed Units	1084.60	1141.70	-20.80	...
High Yield Fund	703.20	744.20	+ 5.70	...
Money Series A	300.10	317.60	- 0.20	...
Money Units	399.20	420.30	+ 0.40	...
Equity Fund	692.60	733.00	+14.70	...
Fixed Interest	397.30	420.50	+ 4.40	...
Indexed Secs	198.90	210.50	+ 0.90	...
European Fund	816.30	863.90	+ 8.70	...
Natural Res	317.90	336.50	+11.80	...
Far East Fund	677.00	716.50	+30.60	...
Smaller Cos	544.90	576.70	- 2.90	...
Special Sits	534.60	565.80	-10.70	...
Man Currency	278.20	294.40	+ 2.10	...
Japanese Tech	326.80	345.90	+23.10	...
US Smaller Cos	348.20	368.50	+19.30	...
Formerly Target Life Assurance Co Ltd				
Deposit	258.20	271.90	+ 0.20	...
Financial Ser 1	56.10	60.00	+ 1.00	...
Fixed Interest	354.90	373.60	+ 0.60	...
Gold	88.90	93.70	+ 4.90	...
Managed	675.30	711.00	-16.60	...
Mngd Growth	217.30	228.80	+ 8.40	...
Mngd Opp	229.00	241.20	+ 9.00	...
Property	329.40	346.70	...	...
Residential Prop	103.90	109.50	- 0.10	...
TSB American	248.70	261.90	+10.80	...
TSB Brit Gwth	990.70	1042.90	-20.20	...
TSB European	293.90	309.50	+ 2.30	...
TSB Income	419.30	441.50	+ 2.20	...
TSB Intl	464.00	488.50	-12.20	...
TSB Intl Inc	320.50	337.40	+ 5.90	...
TSB Pacific	417.90	440.00	-20.00	...
TSB Prem Inc	273.80	286.20	+ 1.40	...
IRISH LIFE ASSURANCE Irish Life Centre, Victoria Street, St Albans, Herts AL1 5TF. 01727 48181				
Global Managed	632.60	665.90	+ 8.10	...
Global Property	311.50	327.90	+ 1.60	...
Global Fixed Int	554.90	584.10	+ 4.60	...
Global Equity	685.00	721.10	+ 9.40	...
Global Cash	223.30	234.00	+ 0.30	...
LAURENTIAN LIFE Barnwood, Gloucester GL4 7RZ 01452 371371				
Property	500.70	527.00	+ 0.10	...
Managed	460.10	484.30	+ 7.20	...
American	501.10	527.40	+20.30	...
UK Equity Fd	504.60	531.10	+ 3.60	...
Japan	217.10	228.50	+12.10	...
Index-Lkd	195.90	206.20	+ 0.70	...
High Yield	945.10	994.80	+ 8.00	...
Money	419.00	441.00	+ 0.40	...
International	432.40	455.10	+14.10	...
Henderson Active	224.90	236.70	+ 3.40	...
Perpetual Active	360.90	379.80	+ 9.00	...
Growth Acc	719.30	757.10	+11.30	...
Gilt Edged	465.00	489.40	+ 3.60	...
European	168.40	177.20	+ 0.50	...
Far East	214.20	225.40	+10.60	...
LEGAL & GENERAL UNIT ASSURANCE 3 Montefiore Road, Hove, Sussex BN3 1SE 01273 820000				
B Soc Lnkd Init	134.80	141.90	...	...
-do- Acc	192.30	202.50	+ 0.10	...
Brit Opps Int	160.00	168.50	+ 1.30	...
-do- Acc	204.70	215.50	+ 2.20	...
Cash Initial	168.60	177.70	- 0.50	...
-do- Acc	299.40	315.20	+ 0.10	...
Equity Initial	723.70	761.80	+ 5.50	...
-do- Acc	1283.80	1351.40	+13.40	...
Fixed Initial	362.20	381.30	+ 1.80	...
-do- Acc	642.60	676.50	+ 5.10	...
Index-Lnkd Gilt	138.20	145.50	- 0.10	...
-do- Acc	209.20	220.30	+ 0.50	...
Intl Initial	340.70	358.70	+ 9.80	...
-do- Acc	595.00	626.40	+18.60	...
Managed Initial	510.50	537.40	+ 6.20	...
-do- Acc	905.60	953.30	+13.90	...
Property Initial	218.20	229.70	- 0.30	...
-do- Acc	387.10	407.50	+ 0.40	...
LINCOLN NATIONAL 1 Olympic Way, Wembley, Middx HA9 0NB 0181 902 8876				
Equity Units 1	*140.73	...	+ 1.39	...
Property Units 1	*26.97	...	+ 0.16	...
Bal Bd Exec Unit	71.22	74.96	+ 0.65	...
2nd Equity Acc	687.50	723.70	+ 3.50	...
2nd High Inc Acc	660.60	695.30	+ 4.10	...
2nd Property Acc	246.40	259.40	+ 1.50	...
2nd Mngd 2 Acc	189.90	199.90	- 1.20	...
2nd Mngd 3 Acc	497.70	523.90	+ 4.60	...
2nd Mngd 4 Acc	246.50	259.50	+ 3.00	...
2nd Deposit Acc	294.90	310.40	+ 0.20	...
2nd Gilt Acc	327.20	344.40	- 1.70	...
2nd Amer Acc	846.10	890.60	+27.70	...
2nd Intl Mny Acc	279.10	293.80	+ 3.50	...
2nd Index Acc	218.30	229.80	+ 0.80	...
2nd Far East Acc	451.70	475.50	+16.00	...
2nd Global Acc	189.10	199.00	+ 4.00	...
2nd Euro Acc	173.70	182.90	+ 1.20	...
2nd Japan Acc	189.60	199.50	+ 4.50	...
2nd Inl Cr Bd Acc	174.40	183.60	+ 1.70	...
2nd Cap Gth Acc	138.30	145.60	+ 1.30	...
LONDON LIFE 100 Temple Street, Bristol, BS1 6EA 0117 9279179				
Equity 1	977.20	...	+ 7.00	...
Fixed Interest 1	462.00	...	+ 4.50	...
Property 1	429.30	...	- 0.40	...
Deposit 1	304.80	...	+ 0.20	...
Mixed 1	647.90	...	+ 6.50	...
Indexed Stock 1	227.50	...	+ 0.80	...
International 1	319.70	...	+ 6.90	...
Equity A 1	236.40	...	+ 1.60	...
Fixed Int A 1	204.70	...	+ 1.90	...
Property A 1	188.50	...	- 0.20	...
Deposit A 1	179.00	...	- 0.20	...
Mixed A 1	212.70	...	+ 2.10	...
Index Stock A 1	178.00	...	+ 0.70	...
International A 1	199.50	...	+ 4.30	...
Equity P 1	808.60	...	+ 6.60	...
Fixed Int P 1	616.00	...	+ 6.30	...
Property P 1	333.20	...	- 0.20	...
Deposit P 1	362.90	...	+ 0.40	...
Mixed P 1	595.30	...	+ 7.00	...
Index Stock P 1	261.00	...	+ 0.90	...
International P 1	373.80	...	+ 9.80	...
LONDON & MANCHESTER ASSURANCE Winslade Park, Exeter EX5 1DS. 01392 282456				
Inv Trust Cap 1	596.30	...	+ 2.50	...
-do- Acc 1	1043.10	...	+ 5.20	...
Property Cap 1	144.60	...	- 0.50	...
-do- Acc 1	242.60	...	- 0.70	...
Fxd Interest Cap 1	201.80	...	+ 1.30	...
-do- Acc 1	340.70	...	+ 2.30	...
Equity Cap 1	345.60	...	+ 3.10	...
-do- Acc 1	592.40	...	+ 6.00	...
Internatl Cap 1	241.90	...	+ 5.50	...
-do- Acc 1	410.30	...	+ 9.60	...
Gtd Deposit Cap 1	163.30	...	...	...
-do- Acc 1	272.90	...	+ 0.20	7.20
Flexible Cap 1	363.90	...	+ 4.20	...
-do- Acc 1	621.70	...	+ 7.60	...
Moneymaker Fd 1	481.40	...	+ 6.00	...
Capital Growth 1	1929.60	...	+23.50	...
M & G Victoria Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1FB 01245 266266				
Amer Bond Acc	506.30	531.80	+20.50	...
Amer Rec Bond	552.20	579.90	+19.20	...
Am Smlr Cos Bd	268.70	282.20	+14.20	...
Australasia Bd	241.10	253.30	+ 8.00	...
Commodity Bond	347.10	364.50	+ 5.10	...
Deposit Bond Acc	375.30	394.00	+ 0.30	...
Equity Bond Acc	1652.70	1735.50	+11.50	...
European Bd Acc	417.90	438.90	+ 2.60	...
Extra Yld Bd Acc	815.60	856.50	+ 4.70	...
Far East Bd Acc	322.40	338.60	+18.90	...
Gilt Bond Acc	476.10	500.00	+ 3.30	...
Gold Bond Acc	162.10	170.40	+ 5.60	...
High Yield Bond	359.40	377.40	- 1.00	...
Index-Lnk Gt Bd	221.70	232.90	- 0.80	...
International Bd	821.30	862.40	+27.20	...
Japan Bond Acc	254.80	267.70	+14.20	...
Japan Sm Cos Acc	239.80	251.90	+11.70	...
Managed Bonds	945.80	993.20	+12.70	...
Prop Bond Acc	354.60	372.50	+ 3.60	...
Rec Bond Acc	845.50	887.90	+ 1.20	...
MGM ASSURANCE MGM House, Heene Road, Worthing BN11 2DY. 01903 204631				
UK Equity	247.80	260.90	+ 1.90	...
UK Equity Acc	361.90	381.00	+ 3.20	...
Special Sits	100.50	105.80	+ 0.70	...
Special Sits Acc	146.80	154.60	- 1.20	...
North American	211.20	222.40	+ 6.80	...
N American Acc	308.50	324.80	+10.00	...
Pacific Basin	368.80	388.30	-15.30	...
Pacific Basin Acc	538.60	567.00	+22.60	...
Fixed Interest	295.20	310.80	+ 2.30	...
Fixed Interest Acc	431.60	454.40	+ 3.60	...
Property	178.80	188.20	+ 0.10	...
Property Acc	261.50	275.30	+ 0.30	...
Deposit	153.40	161.50	+ 0.10	...
Deposit Acc	224.30	236.20	+ 0.30	...
Managed	280.20	295.00	+ 3.40	...
Managed Acc	377.30	397.30	+ 4.90	...
MERCHANT INVESTORS St Bartholomews House, Lewins Mead, Bristol BS1 2NH 0117 9266 366				
Property	425.50	447.80	- 4.00	...
UK Equity	403.80	425.00	+ 4.60	...
Gilt Edged	622.90	655.20	-11.00	...
Interest Fund	406.90	428.30	+ 1.20	...
Managed Fd	528.80	556.60	+ 5.50	...
Intl Equity	636.30	669.70	+14.10	...
North American	245.00	257.80	+ 6.40	...
Far East	460.10	484.30	+17.50	...
Intl Currency	265.30	279.20	+ 1.20	...
NPI 48 Gracechurch Street, London EC3P 3HH 0171 623 4200				
Managed	540.60	569.00	+10.20	...
UK Equity	696.30	732.90	+11.70	...
Overseas Equity	530.40	558.30	+15.30	...
American	488.40	514.10	+21.30	...
Far East	593.90	625.10	+29.10	...
Property	216.90	228.30	- 2.20	...
Fixed Interest	423.90	445.70	+ 3.00	...
Indexed Gilt	247.90	260.90	+ 0.90	...
Deposit	225.40	237.30	+ 0.20	...
NORWICH UNION LIFE INSURANCE SOCIETY - Ex NUAM Funds PO Box 140, Norwich NR1 1PP 01603 622200				
Managed Fund	1595.40	1679.40	+33.40	...
Equity Fund	3523.30	3708.70	+31.90	...
Property Fd	593.60	624.80	+ 3.10	...
Fixed Int Fd	652.30	686.60	+ 6.70	...
Deposit Fund	364.40	383.60	+ 0.30	...
Intl Fund	270.50	284.70	+ 7.40	...
OLD MUTUAL 2 Bartley Way, Hook, Hants RG27 9XA 01256 768888				
Equity Fund Acc	328.40	346.50	+ 3.00	...
Fxd Interest Acc	260.50	274.30	+ 2.00	...
International Acc	265.00	279.60	- 7.40	...
Managed Acc	236.20	249.20	+ 3.50	...
Property Acc	218.90	231.00	- 0.90	...
Money Acc	160.80	169.70	+ 0.10	...
Spec Mkt Acc	225.10	237.50	+ 8.50	...
Japan Equity Acc	118.50	125.00	- 5.90	...
N Amer Acc	174.90	184.50	+ 6.30	...
Pacific Acc	157.60	166.30	+ 7.90	...
European Acc	188.50	198.90	- 1.10	...
PEARL ASSURANCE The Pearl Centre, Lynch Wood, Peterborough PE2 6FY. 01733 470 470				
Inv Prop Dist	146.70	154.50	+ 0.10	...
Prop Acc (Gross)	329.00	346.40	+ 0.30	...
Inv Equity	1332.10	1402.30	+14.00	...
Inv Managed	930.30	979.30	+11.20	...
Ret Managed	1055.40	1111.00	+12.80	...
PROVIDENT MUTUAL Six Hills Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2ST 01438 732000				
Managed Ord	526.30	554.00	+ 8.40	...
Managed Initial	343.70	361.80	+ 5.40	...
Equity Ord	815.50	858.40	+ 9.60	...
Equity Init	532.50	560.50	+ 5.90	...
I-Linked Gilt Ord	213.60	224.80	+ 0.70	...
I-Linked Gilt Init	145.70	153.40	+ 0.50	...
Oseas Equity Ord	412.30	434.00	+12.30	...
Oseas Equity Init	269.20	283.40	+ 7.90	...
Property Ord	279.00	293.70	+ 0.60	...
Property Init	182.30	191.80	+ 0.30	...
Fixed Int Ord	305.30	321.40	+ 2.90	...
Fixed Int Init	199.40	209.90	+ 1.70	...
Deposit Ord	214.70	226.00	+ 0.20	...
Deposit Initial	140.20	147.60	...	...
PRUDENTIAL Holborn Bars, London EC1N 2NH 0171 405 9222				
Managed	383.30	399.30	+ 3.00	...
PRUDENTIAL INDIVIDUAL LIFE FDS 1 Stephen Street, London W1P 2AP 0171 548 3278				
Managed Fund	895.10	942.30	+10.60	...
Equity Fund	1729.10	1820.20	+14.00	...
Intl Fund	703.90	741.00	+19.00	...
Fixed Interest	612.90	645.20	+ 5.60	...
Property Fund	492.40	518.40	...	...
Cash Fund	379.70	399.70	+ 0.50	...
Pacific Basin	391.70	412.40	+19.90	...
N American Fd	323.70	340.80	+10.10	...
Euro Fund	304.80	320.90	+ 1.60	...
Balanced Fund	175.20	184.50	+ 2.30	...
Strategic Fund	187.10	197.00	+ 3.00	...
ROYAL HERITAGE LIFE ASSURANCE Peterborough Business Park, Peterborough PE2 6GG. 01733 390000				
Mult Grow (45) 1	814.80	...	...	...
-do- Acc	475.80	500.80	...	...
Op Prop	505.70	532.30	+23.20	...
Op Equity	1114.50	1173.10	+24.70	...
Op High Yield	642	675.70	+ 4.80	...
Op Managed	905.20	952.80	+19.60	...
Op Deposit	408.70	430.30	+ 0.40	...
Inc Gth	339	356.80	+ 4.50	...
Japan Smlr	250.10	263.20	+16.10	...
Managed Gth	288.60	303.70	+ 4.40	...
Gilt	87.50	92	+ 0.80	...
British	408.40	429.80	- 1.70	...
Global Bond	128	134.70	+ 2.20	...
Global Inc & Gth	180.30	189.70	- 2.80	...
Gold Share	87.40	91.90	+ 2.40	...
High Income	324.70	341.70	+ 1.10	...
Income	486.50	512	+ 4.10	...
Japan	442.30	465.50	+20.70	...
UK Smlr Cos	387.70	408.10	+ 0.90	...
Mngd Growth	509.70	536.50	+ 6.10	...
ROYAL LIFE INSURANCE New Hall Place, Liverpool L69 3HS 0151 239 3000				
Royal Shield Fd	1077.70	1140.40	+16.60	...
Royal Life Unit Linked				
Managed Fund	425.80	448.20	+ 6.50	...
Equity Fund	612.90	645.10	+ 9.50	...
Property Fund	334	351.50	- 1.10	...
International	526.50	554.20	+12.00	...
Pacific Basin	279.70	294.40	+19.40	...
United States	317.90	334.60	+ 8.00	...
Gilt Fund	398.40	419.30	+ 2.70	...
SAVE & PROSPER 16-22 Western Road, Romford, Essex RM1 3LB. 01708 766966				
Bal Inv Fund	834.50	883.10	+ 9.80	2.36
Deposit Fund (2)	389.60	412.30	+ 0.30	7.11
Gilt Fund	564.90	597.80	+ 4.60	7.99
Global Equity Fd	255.10	270.00	+ 7.90	...
Property Fund (46)	116.30	123.10	...	7.16
AG Bond Fund	155.30	164.40	+ 2.80	...
SCOTTISH AMICABLE 150 St Vincent Street, Glasgow 0141 248 2323				
Equity	665.80	700.90	+ 6.40	...
Fixed Interest	404.30	425.60	+ 4.20	...
Index-Linked	208.60	219.60	+ 1.30	...
International	498.60	524.90	+ 9.80	...
Property	303.60	319.60	+ 0.40	...
Cash	239.40	252.10	+ 0.30	...
Managed	517.10	544.40	+ 6.00	...
Cap Gteed Bd	129.40	136.30	+ 1.70	...
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE 28 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YF 0131 556 9101				
Cash	188.686	198.617	+ 0.17	...
Index-Linked	172.80	182.00	+ 0.60	...
Fixed Interest	197.00	207.50	+ 4.30	...
Mixed	285.10	300.20	+ 4.30	...
UK Equity	272.50	287.00	+ 1.20	...
International	282.10	297.00	+ 7.70	...
American	312.70	329.30	+ 7.60	...
Japan	236.50	249.00	+ 9.70	...
European	291.90	307.30	+ 3.10	...
Pacific	359.50	378.60	+15.60	...
Technology	471.90	496.90	+22.30	...
Frgn Bd/Crrcy	254.80	268.30	+ 4.90	...
SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS 19 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YE 0131 225 2211				
Property	224.00	235.90	- 0.80	...
UK Equity	400.00	421.10	+ 3.40	...
American	300.60	316.50	-10.60	...
Pacific	367.60	387.10	+17.70	...
European	519.60	547.00	+ 5.30	...
International	345.20	363.50	+11.50	...
Fixed Interest	256.80	270.50	+ 2.50	...
Index Linked	210.10	221.30	+ 0.70	...
Deposit	202.80	213.50	+ 0.20	...
Managed	317.70	334.50	+ 4.80	...
Worldwide	131.60	138.70	+ 3.20	...
Pen Worldwide	142.00	149.50	+ 4.80	...
SCOTTISH MUTUAL ASSURANCE 109 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5HN 0141 248 6321				
Flex Fund (35)	1811.90	1867.90	...	...
Safety Fund	256.50	270.00	+ 2.10	...
Growth Fund	258.30	271.90	+ 4.70	...
Opportunity Fd	257.90	271.50	+ 4.20	...
Cash Fund	180.90	190.50	+ 0.20	...
European Fund	381.10	401.20	+ 3.10	...
Gilts & Fxd Int	219.30	230.90	+ 2.40	...
Index-Linked Fd	193.70	203.90	+ 1.30	...
International Fd	313.40	329.90	+11.10	...
North American	280.40	295.20	+11.50	...
Property Fund	128.90	135.70	- 0.10	...
UK Equity	277.40	292.00	+ 2.10	...
UK Smaller	270.00	284.30	+ 5.00	...
SCOTTISH PROVIDENT 6 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YA 0131 556 9181				
Mixed	295.60	311.20	+ 3.90	...
Equity	313.60	330.20	+ 1.80	...
International	287.90	303.20	+ 7.00	...
Property	233.40	245.70	- 0.50	...
Fixed Interest	235.80	248.30	+ 3.90	...
Index Linked	192.00	202.20	- 0.90	...
Cash	193.50	203.80	+ 0.20	...
Formerly Prolific				
Bal Gwth Mngd	880.30	936.50	+12.00	...
Cash Fund	351.60	370.50	...	...
Property Fund	299.60	315.80	- 0.30	...
Equity Fund	991.70	1055.10	+24.30	...
Fxd Interest Fund	497.90	524.70	+ 5.70	...
International	413.20	439.60	+10.40	...
High Income	790.30	840.80	+ 4.20	...
Far East	585.10	622.50	+24.70	...
North American	662.30	704.60	+26.40	...
Special Sits	714.70	760.40	+ 5.00	...
Technology	968.20	1030.10	-68.30	...
Extra Income Fd	433.80	461.50	+ 3.00	...
Gilt Fund	513.00	545.80	+ 2.00	...
European	162.70	173.10	- 0.70	...
Adventurous Mg	250.50	263.70	+ 7.10	...
Secure Mgd	160.10	168.60	+ 1.70	...
Equity Inc Dist	127.70	134.60	+ 0.60	4.45
Managed Dist	117.00	123.30	+ 1.00	5.03
SCOTTISH WIDOWS PO Box 902, Edinburgh EH16 5BU 0131 655 6000				
Inv Pol 1	1081.00	1081.00	+13.30	...
Inv Pol 2	979.90	1031.50	+12.50	...
Inv Pol 3	931.60	980.60	+11.50	...
Inv Cash	328.10	345.40	+ 0.30	...
Mixed Fund	508.80	535.80	+ 8.00	...
Equity Fund	610.40	642.60	+ 6.90	...
Property Fund	246.70	259.70	+ 0.50	...
International Fd	555.70	585.00	+15.90	...
Fixed Interest Fd	411.30	433.00	+ 3.30	...
Indexed Stock Fd	211.20	222.40	+ 0.80	...
Cash Fund	237.20	249.80	+ 0.20	...
SKANDIA LIFE Skandia House, Portland Terrace, Southampton SO9 7BX 01703 334411				
Managed Acc	420.90	443.00	+ 5.00	...
Equity Acc	513.00	540.00	+ 5.50	...
International Acc	367.90	387.20	+ 7.40	...
Property	231.30	243.40	- 0.20	...
STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO 3 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2XZ 0131 225 2552				
Cash	278.90	293.60	+ 0.30	...
Equity	1155.60	1216.50	+10.90	...
European	186.50	196.40	- 0.40	...
Far East	179.30	188.80	+ 7.60	...
Fixed Interest	436.00	459.00	- 3.80	...
Index Linked	225.00	236.90	+ 0.90	...
International	674.50	710.00	+16.50	...
Managed	792.30	834.00	+10.90	...
Nth American	177.00	186.40	+ 5.70	...
Property	371.10	390.70	+ 0.70	...
Pensions				
Cash	439.80	463.00	+ 0.50	...
Equity	1734.50	1825.80	+22.90	...
European	229.00	241.10	- 0.50	...
Far East	145.30	152.90	+ 7.60	...
Fixed Interest	612.40	644.70	- 5.40	...
Index Linked	315.00	331.60	- 1.30	...
International	975.30	1026.70	+30.00	...
Managed	1150.80	1211.40	+20.40	...
Nth American	227.70	239.70	+ 8.30	...
Property	518.20	545.50	+ 0.60	...
Stock Exchange	260.30	274.10	+ 5.30	...
SUN ALLIANCE St Mark's Court, Horsham, Sussex 01403 232323				
Managed Fund	754.70	794.50	+11.90	...
Equity Fund	1003.70	1056.60	+12.90	...
Fixed Interest Fd	445.30	468.80	+ 3.90	...
Index-Linked Fd	339.60	357.50	+ 0.90	...
Property Fund	531.80	559.80	- 0.50	...
International Fd	737.20	776.00	+22.00	...
N American Fd	317.00	333.70	+15.90	...
Far East Fund	242.20	255.00	+12.80	...
Deposit Fund	310.90	327.30	+ 0.30	...
International Bd 1	499.12	...	+ 1.17	...
Worldwide Bond 1	175.10	184.40	+ 3.20	...
European	185.10	194.90	- 1.70	...
Phoenix Assurance				
WealthAssured	751.20	790.90	+ 8.80	...
Ebor Phoenix Ex	514.00	552.30	...	...
Property Growth				
Property Fund 1	617.30	...	+ 0.40	...
-do- Acc 1	573.80	...	- 0.50	...
Agricultural Fd 1	856.60	...	+ 0.80	...
-do- Acc 1	831.00	...	+ 0.70	...
Abbey Nat Fd 1	459.70	...	- 0.10	...
Abbey Nat Acc 1	494.30	...	- 0.10	...
Investment Fd 1	403.00	...	+ 6.00	...
Investment (A) 1	386.20	...	+ 5.70	...
Equity 1	1467.50	...	-18.00	...
Equity Acc 1	1401.80	...	+17.10	...
Money Fund 1	497.90	...	+ 0.50	...
-do- Acc 1	474.90	...	+ 0.40	...
Actuarial Fd 1	663.40	...	+ 9.70	...
Gilt-Edged Fd 1	418.10	...	+ 3.50	...
-do- Acc 1	418.10	...	+ 3.50	...
Retire Annuity 1	1267.50	...	...	...
Immed Annuity 1	307.50	...	...	...
Bldg Soc Life	236.00	...	+ 0.20	...
SUN LIFE OF CANADA Basingview, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 2DZ Dealing: 01256 841414				
Growth Acc 1	1631.00	...	- 0.30	...
Managed Acc 1	914.30	...	+ 1.30	...
Equity Account 1	1338.90	...	- 4.10	...
Mngd Fund Acc	418.60	440.60	+ 0.60	...
Equity Fund Acc	577.70	608.10	- 1.90	...
Prop Fund Acc	265.30	279.30	...	...
Fixed Int Fd Acc	333.00	350.50	+ 2.20	...
Money Fund Acc	229.80	241.90	+ 0.20	...
Indx-Lk Scs Ac	216.60	228.00	+ 0.50	...
Pers Pns Acc 1	2087.90	...	+16.50	...
Pens Mngd Acct	970.50	1021.60	+ 8.00	...
Pens Guarantee	273.00	287.40	+ 0.50	...
Pens Equity	375.70	395.40	+ 2.40	...
Pens Property	310.60	327.00	+ 0.50	...
Pens Fixed Int	316.20	332.80	+ 5.30	...
Pens Intl	266.60	280.60	+ 2.30	...
Pen Money	249.30	262.50	+ 0.40	...
Pen Indx-Lnkd	209.40	220.40	+ 1.40	...
SUN LIFE UNIT St James Barton, Bristol BS99 7SL 0117 9426911				
Managed Acc	984.10	1035.90	-11.70	...
Property Acc	317.10	333.80	+ 5.80	...
Equity Acc	1637.30	1723.50	+ 6.60	...
Fixed Int Acc	437.80	460.90	+ 4.70	...
Cash Acc	322.20	339.20	+ 0.20	...
Amer Equity Acc	459.40	483.60	+14.90	...
Japan Acc	305.60	321.70	+13.00	...
Pacific Acc	379.80	399.80	+14.00	...
Far Eastern Acc	861.10	906.50	-30.30	...
International Acc	652.60	687.00	+18.00	...
Distribution Fund	289.01	304.30	- 2.20	5.92
European	207.50	218.50	+ 0.70	...
Defrd Dist	184.40	194.20	- 1.30	...
TSB LIFE LTD Charlton Place, Andover, Hants SP10 1RE 01264 345678				
Managed Fund	314.50	331.10	+ 4.80	...
Property Fund	230.60	242.80	+ 0.20	...
Fixed Interest Fd	243.50	256.30	- 3.20	...
Money Fund	208.40	219.50	+ 0.20	...
Equity Fund	409.40	431.00	+ 7.20	...
WINDSOR LIFE Windsor House, Telford, Shropshire 01952 292929				
Managed Bond	766.30	807.30	+ 5.70	...
Money Fund	330.40	347.80	+ 0.30	...
Equity Fund	689.30	725.50	+ 1.90	...
Fixed Interest	302.40	318.30	- 2.40	...
Property Fund	332.90	350.40	...	...
Gresham Framlington				
American & Gnrl	684.50	721.30	+30.70	...
Income	809.40	852.90	+ 4.10	...
International Gth	683.20	719.00	+16.90	...
Capital Fund	677.40	713.80	- 0.50	...
Recovery Fund	653.40	688.50	- 8.30	...
Japan & General	276.40	291.50	+11.60	...
Formerly AEtna Life Funds				
Squirrel	18.78	19.77	+ 0.02	...
Bear	21.66	22.80	+ 0.21	...
Owl	23.28	24.51	+ 0.13	...
Bull	19.88	20.93	+ 0.32	...
Stag	20.56	21.64	+ 0.24	...
Gilt Edged	20.26	21.33	+ 0.22	...
Deposit	16.36	17.22	+ 0.01	...
Pensions				
Squirrel	25.86	27.22	+ 0.03	...
Bear	30.53	32.14	+ 0.32	...
Owl	32.25	33.96	+ 0.20	...
Bull	26.10	27.47	+ 0.44	...
Stag	26.35	27.74	+ 0.30	...
Gilt Edged	25.86	27.22	+ 0.30	...
Deposit	21.43	22.56	+ 0.02	...
Pre 1982 Series				
3-Way Fund	648.54	...	+10.04	...
1982 Series				
UK Equity	386.41	406.85	+ 3.76	...
N Amer Equity	340.41	358.85	+11.19	...
Far East Equity	377.47	397.33	+11.41	...
Fixed	320.70	337.46	+ 3.80	...
Cash Deposit	213.00	224.21	+ 0.19	...
Property	146.82	154.44	+ 1.67	...
Special Opp	386.63	407.19	+ 4.47	...
Managed	342.13	360.03	+ 5.56	...
Index-Linked Fd	201.63	212.56	+ 1.88	...

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WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS



Chancellor missed opportunity to widen appeal of pensioners bonds

From A. J. Dharamsey

Sir, The Chancellor's decision to lower the qualifying age to invest in the so-called Pensioners Guaranteed Income Bonds from 65 to 60 without proposing a change of name is rather indignant and avaricious.

On inquiry, it has been disclosed that, most probably, owing to lack of publicity, only 244,000 pensioners have bothered to invest in these high-interest bonds since their launch in January 1994. With an average holding of just over £9,000, the pensioners bonds have raised just under £2.3 billion to date.

However, according to the Central Statistical Office, there are over 12 million pensioners in the UK and, if most of them had invested as little as £500 by now, the Chancellor could have filled the Treasury's coffers by at least £6 billion — double his revised forecast for the net contribution from these bonds for 1995-96. Just imagine how he could have used this additional £3,000 million. Should there be another opportunity, I suggest that, after he launches an innovative revenue raising proposal, the Treasury embarks on an aggressive press and television marketing campaign.

As aforementioned, the Chancellor also missed an ideal opportunity on Budget day to rechristen the pensioners bonds by renaming them "PQRS Bonds" — Persons Qualifying to Retire Saving Bonds. He could have even lowered the qualifying age to 50, instead of 60, as nearly 400,000 people retire at 55 (CSO records for 1992). The only decent proposal in respect of the bonds was the decision to increase the maximum holding limit from £20,000 to £50,000.

Yours,
ABBY J. DHARAMSEY,
2 Bentley Court, W2.

Ernie does try to contact 'lost' winners

From Mr T. Threlfall

Sir, Mr G. B. Collins (Weekend Money letters, November 18) is concerned that Premium Bond prize warrants may get lost in the post and suggests that Ernie should write annually to every bondholder with a statement of prizes paid to them.

There are 23 million bondholders, many of whom hold a single £1 bond, so that would be a costly exercise. But it would also be an unnecessary one. If a warrant for any of the £50-£1,000 prizes has not been encashed within four months, we write to the holder again. (There are special procedures for larger prizes). The 0.4 per cent of prizes which remain unclaimed are mostly due to holders who have moved without leaving a forwarding address.

Mr Collins is also concerned about whether all bonds are entered in every draw. No bond numbers are fed into Ernie, so none can be left out. Ernie generates numbers completely randomly up to a predetermined ceiling. Those that match eligible bond numbers are the winners.

TOM THRELFALL
(Head of Operations),
Premium Bond Office,
Blackpool.

Cost of a £10 stake

From Mr J. W. Lane

Sir, I paid off my daughter's outstanding mortgage, ie capital sum payable to date and £50 redemption fee to Bradford & Bingley Building Society. At its suggestion, £10 was left outstanding for custody and safekeeping of deeds.

She continued to pay her house and contents insurance. As time passed, being without work and struggling for cash, she sought to discontinue the payments, but was told that she could not as any property the society had an interest in — £10 — had to be insured. She stopped her payments, asked for her deeds to be returned and was presented with a further quote of £45-£50 redemption fee. The society had paid the insurance against her wishes, resulting in a final account of £199.98.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN LANE,
18 Berry Hill Lane,
Mansfield, Nottinghamshire.

Letters or information for Weekend Money may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5082.

Small investors are picking up the tab for the unchallenged antics of management, says **Tom Benyon**

Time for Sid to call companies to account



There is more than a shade of *Catch-22* over the attendance of private investors at annual meetings

Today's investor has a right to believe that any institution he trusts with his money has two clear tasks: to increase his capital, commensurate with reasonable risk, and to prevent excess and foolishness on the part of British industry. He is sadly mistaken, for many institutions appear to perform neither role adequately.

We now live in a society where simple performance tables are commonplace. Such tables help the taxpayer to make essential decisions based on tough reality rooted in fact, and they strip away the rosy perceptions fostered by the professionals.

There are, of course, investment league tables among investment houses, but these have been muted to the point of being meaningless. And the layman can be easily confused by the diversionary skills of the financial services salesmen.

But a quick glance behind the glossy advertisements tells a bleak tale. The fact is that, either through incompetence or laziness, over a five-year period, two-thirds of institutional managers fail to beat the performance of the FTSE indices.

But they still bulge with money because they know that once the hype has passed that attracted the saver in the first place, investor inertia takes over. In spite of lacklustre results, the customer relies on the devil he knows — at least until the next spicy advertisement comes along. Nor do many institutions appear to hold the companies in which they invest to account.

As a result, all too often, the antics of company managers appear to go unchallenged. To the outsider, some company managers appear to be busier plotting their own inflated salaries, rolling contracts, option schemes and grossly funded pensions than seeking to enhance share values. And it is the small investor who ends up picking up the tab.

Some institutions do play an essential and responsible role. For example, Alastair Ross Goobey, of Postel, began to oppose rolling contracts that allowed directors three years' pay if they were fired. But it is the exceptions that make the rule. The scope for other fund managers to ban these contracts appears limited as some of them have similar benefits.

So it is up to the private investor. Why should he bother to slog all the way to an AGM? He has now learnt that if, after a tedious journey, he goes to a dreary venue at an anti-social time, all he is likely to do is to catch a glimpse of a Daimler-full of proxy votes to be cast in support of the chairman and all his work. So it is hardly surprising that shareholder attendance at AGMs rarely exceeds 0.5 per cent. Catch-22 is complete; boards attest that as the number of investors who attend AGMs is so small why bother about corporate governance anyway? So who cares? As some indication of institutional inertia, an analyst for the Guild of Shareholders says that out of some 300 AGMs he has attended in the past three years, there has been only one solitary question asked by an institutional shareholder. Of course, most have been given the opportunity to ask their questions in private before handing in their proxies, the common secret ritual to keep the private investor in the dark.

There is only a trickle of questions about the accounts from Sid, who is never made to feel at home by the heavyweight corporate professionals. So he learns even less about the business, while the strategies and essential plans go unexamined.

The investor must ask the Government to do more. The guild is campaigning for tax incentives for investment clubs; rights to access company data identical to those of institutional shareholders; and encouragement for private investors to unite in a representative body, limited by guarantee, non-profit making and non-taxable.

When 20 per cent of shareholders join such a body they should have the right to appoint one non-executive director to the company board. The groups should also be able to circulate details to shareholders annually at the company's expense. Then why now disenfranchise non-attending shareholders from voting at the AGM?

When the private shareholder is seen to be fighting his corner the tide will begin to turn and he will get the sort of consideration his counterparts have come to expect as a right in America and other countries. Once mobilised, private shareholders will prove to be an unstoppable force able to call companies to account.

The author is chairman of the Guild of Shareholders (01296 75290).

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†TOP TEN UK FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS BASED ON TOTAL ASSETS AND IS TAKEN FROM THE LAST PUBLISHED ACCOUNTS (SOURCE: IBCA). *THE ABOVE EXAMPLE ASSUMES THE FOLLOWING: 1) THE MAXIMUM ALLOWED AS A SINGLE ANNUAL DEPOSIT WAS INVESTED ON 01.01.91 AND ON 1ST JANUARY EVERY YEAR SINCE UP TO THE 5 YEAR TOTAL MAXIMUM INVESTMENT OF £9,000. 2) THE CURRENT RATE OF INTEREST 6.9% A YEAR (NOT INCLUDING BONUSES) APPLIES UNTIL THE END OF THE 5 YEAR TERM. 3) INTEREST HAS BEEN ADDED ANNUALLY ON EACH ANNIVERSARY OF ACCOUNT OPENING AND NO INTEREST HAS BEEN WITHDRAWN (SOURCE: BLAY'S GUIDES). PAST PERFORMANCE DOES NOT NECESSARILY GIVE A GUIDE FOR THE FUTURE. THE MINIMUM OPENING BALANCE FOR A HALIFAX TESSA OR HALIFAX TESSA 2 IS £50 AND YOU MUST BE AT LEAST 18 TO OPEN ONE. INTEREST RATES MAY CHANGE. INTEREST CAN BE WITHDRAWN FROM A HALIFAX TESSA OR HALIFAX TESSA 2 BEFORE IT MATURES APART FROM AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO BASIC RATE INCOME TAX ON THAT INTEREST. IF OTHER WITHDRAWALS ARE MADE, THE ACCOUNT WILL NO LONGER QUALIFY AS A TESSA. 'TAX-FREE' MEANS FREE OF INCOME TAX. AN ADMINISTRATION FEE OF £10 WILL BE CHARGED IF A HALIFAX TESSA OR TESSA 2 IS TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTION. COPIES OF THE ACCOUNT CONDITIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT ANY BRANCH OR HALIFAX BUILDING SOCIETY, TRINITY ROAD, HALIFAX HX1 2RG AFTER 31.12.95.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Fund	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AIB UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD 01895 259 783				
Gridlund Amer	197.60	209.10†	+5.60	0.19
Gridlund Equity	271.70	289.00	+2.90	2.02
Gridlund Euro	239.50	258.40	+0.30	1.85
Gridlund Ext Bal	124.40	128.90	..	0.80
Gridlund Gilt	76.63	78.99	+0.57	5.13
Gridlund Japan	171.70	181.70†	+7.20	..
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS 01203 553 231				
General Acc	619.00	658.60	+9.30	2.57
General Inc	531.80	565.80	+8.00	2.57
UK Growth Acc	418.20	444.90†	+4.40	2.79
UK Growth Inc	278.60	296.40†	+2.90	2.79
Higher Inc Acc	767.70	816.80†	+4.50	4.08
Higher Inc Inc	427.20	454.50†	+2.10	4.09
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	205.70	217.20	+1.70	5.54
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	94.58	99.89	+0.80	5.54
Nth America	342.20	364.10†	+16.40	..
Europe	317.60	337.90	+2.80	0.82
Brit Evsell	84.56	89.95†	+1.96	2.86
Brit Fndmtls Acc	111.70	118.90	+1.00	4.71
Brit Fndmtls Inc	78.22	83.22	+0.65	4.71
Global Opps	95.12	101.20†	+3.20	0.22
Balanced Acc	59.61	64.08	+0.62	2.81
Balanced Inc	57.92	61.62	+0.90	2.81
Japan Acc	46.76	49.75	+2.65	..
Pac Basin Acc	388.60	404.90†	+19.70	1.02
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS 0345 717 373				
High Income				
Gilts & Fixed Int	131.60	139.60†	-0.70	7.16
High Inc Equity	175.70	187.90	+1.30	4.19
Worldwide Bond	292.80	310.40†	+4.30	4.51
Capital Growth				
American Growth	341.60	365.30	+16.90	0.35
Asian Pacific	309.80	331.30	-15.50	..
Assets & Earnings	287.90	306.30†	-1.80	2.83
Euro Capital Inc	149.50	159.90	+0.90	0.61
-do- Accum	160.40	171.50	+0.90	0.60
General	262.60	279.40	+2.10	2.98
Japan	122.60	131.10	+6.50	..
Mastertrust	152.60	163.20	-3.30	1.45
US Emerging Cos	179.00	190.40	+10.20	..
Ethical	75.36	80.17	+2.00	2.44
International	126.20	134.30	+4.30	0.60
Dividend & Growth	66.16	70.38	-0.40	3.99
Global Gwth & Sec	70.38	75.15	-0.30	2.69
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	1961.00	2036.00	-5.00	..
ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0800 833 580				
Amer Inc & Growth	55.21	57.33	+2.45	0.64
Cash	50.01	50.01†	-0.52	5.85
Emerging Mkts	64.77	68.65	-2.49	0.05
European	129.70	134.30	+0.10	..
Exempt	1032.60	1102.00	-8.50	1.69
Extra Income #	48.39	51.78†	-0.69	6.56
Far East Emg Ecn	117.60	123.50	-4.20	0.51
Fixed Interest #	23.58	24.52†	+0.21	9.58
Fund Inv Tst	165.10	173.40	+0.70	8.97
Japan	184.80	192.20	+8.50	..
Latin American	48.78	50.61	-2.58	0.96
Pacific	79.50	83.47	-3.33	0.31
Property Share	62.32	65.42	-0.54	2.68
UK Emerging Cos	69.41	73.38	-0.36	1.69
UK Growth	49.20	52.10	-0.49	2.25
Aber World Port #	78.17	79.65†	-1.31	2.05
Ethical	72.64	75.55†	+0.47	2.33
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	50.70	50.70†	-0.38	7.41
For AEGON see Matheson				
AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0171 258 5868				
Resid Property	97.22	104.20	-0.20	5.10
ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD 01452 305 958				
Amity Income	83.19	88.27	-1.48	2.32
Income Builder Inc	75.55	80.37†	-0.30	2.70
ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TSTS PLC IFA dlg: 01793 610 366 Client dlg: 01793 514 514				
Balanced Trusts				
Growth & Income	259.70	277.60	+2.10	2.81
Capital	459.50	491.20	+4.40	1.68
Balanced	759.20	811.50†	..	2.45
Accumulator	1445.00	1544.00†	+18.00	2.63
Income Trusts				
American Income	56.71	60.62	-1.52	2.94
High Income	426.90	456.30	-3.70	3.38
Equity Income	240.40	256.90	+2.60	3.24
High Yield	258.90	278.70†	+3.30	3.14
Govt Securities	34.54	36.46	+0.30	5.81
International Trusts				
Amer Spec Sits	188.00	200.90	+6.50	0.35
European Growth	42.90	45.73	+0.49	0.01
International	177.10	189.20	+5.40	0.17
Japan	200.10	213.10	+11.00	0.01
Pacific	394.70	421.90	-19.30	0.01
Secs of America	533.70	568.80†	-20.70	0.41
Wwide Asset Val	52.74	56.37	-1.80	0.21
Specialist Trusts				
Asset Value	575.00	614.80†	+5.40	2.08
Conv & Gilt	44.62	47.69	-0.09	4.86
Smaller Cos	189.60	202.60†	-1.60	1.10
2nd Smaller Cos	179.50	191.90	+1.10	1.27
Recovery	151.00	161.40†	-0.10	1.62
Met Min & Cdty	170.30	182.00†	-3.30	0.65
Oseas Earnings	384.10	410.50	+2.90	1.64
Technology	218.70	233.70†	+15.10	0.01
UK Special Sits	524.00	560.10†	+3.10	1.55
B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD 01293 526 911				
Cntrctd Out Pens	109.00	113.20		3.04
Foundtn Pers Pens	65.09	68.66	+1.21	1.44
BSI-THORNHILL UNIT TST MGRS LTD 0171 600 0033				
Capital	77.65	82.61	+1.87	1.76
International	67.33	71.63	+1.83	
BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD 0131 222 4242				
America	295.30	317.40	+13.50	
Bond	120.40	126.70†	+1.40	6.59
Brit Smlr Cos	110.90	118.00	+0.60	1.69
Conv & Gen #	68.70	73.08	-0.29	5.38
Europe	235.90	250.90†	-1.30	0.62
Euro Smlr Cos	106.60	113.80†	-1.40	0.62
Income Gwth	371.20	394.90	-5.00	3.88
Japan	324.60	345.80	+16.30	
Latin American	68.85	73.26	+3.99	..
Pacific	108.70	113.00	+4.50	1.24
UK Smlr Cos	58.58	62.32	-0.18	1.29
Japan Fd	667.20	688.20	+20.30	
Mngd Fd	191.10	202.90†	-2.80	2.94
BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD 0171 489 8673				
Brit & Oseas	334.60	352.20	+4.30	0.82
Capital Gwth	119.50	125.80	+1.10	2.81
Wwide Opps	204.40	215.20	+5.00	0.93
BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD 0181 534 5544				
Balanced Trusts				
Bal Inv Fd Inc	388.40	404.50†	+4.70	2.56
European Bd Inc	95.84	99.24	+0.58	6.86
Exempt	77.87	82.85†	-0.75	4.05
Financial	92.52	98.95†	+1.11	2.45
500	471.50	509.80	+3.30	2.62
General	298.60	319.70	+4.90	2.55
Property	237.00	254.30†	+0.60	6.49
Trustee	209.80	223.80	+2.30	2.24
Income Trusts				
Cash Inc	100.80	100.80	+0.10	6.02
Extra Income #	127.40	136.30	+0.60	4.93
Gilt & Fxd Int	58.58	60.54†	+0.39	8.21
Income	566.30	605.70	+5.20	3.79
Income Builder #	66.82	71.27	+0.44	5.49
Intl Income	68.32	72.68	+1.38	3.19
Growth Trusts - UK				
Capital	133.00	141.80	+2.80	2.21
Leisure	150.20	160.70	+1.80	1.10
Recovery	445.60	476.90	+1.70	2.79
Smlr Cos Inc	48.18	51.67	+0.12	2.15
Special Sits	338.80	362.30	+7.10	1.51
Growth Trusts - Overseas				
America	160.50	170.80†	+5.50	0.30
Aust Acc	265.40	283.40	+6.30	1.87
Aust Inc	181.90	172.80	+3.80	1.87
Euro Gwth Inc	167.60	177.90	+3.00	0.73
-do- Accum	180.90	192.10	+3.20	0.73
Japan & Gen Inc	163.80	173.40	+8.80	
-do- Accum	165.70	175.40	+8.90	..
Japan Spec Sits	75.23	79.69	+4.26	
Univ Tech Inc	92.25	98.35	+3.93	..
Worldwide	184.70	198.00	+6.00	0.63
BARING FUND MANAGERS LTD 0171 214 1004				
American Growth	117.20	124.10	+5.50	..
Amer Smlr Cos	153.20	163.89	+5.70	..
Convertibles	55.21	59.18	+0.63	5.70
Eastern	282.80	305.60	+16.50	0.30
Equity Income	88.38	94.76†	+0.76	3.80
European Growth	326.50	346.70	-1.70	0.60
Europa	273.20	290.30†	+3.80	0.20
German Growth	81.03	85.97	+2.54	0.50
Global Bond	69.54	73.25	+1.33	6.50
Global Growth	140.40	149.50†	+4.80	..
Japan Growth	204.30	217.70	+10.80	..
Japan Sunrise	153.10	163.00	+5.70	..
Korea Trust	77.22	84.12	-1.19	..
Portfolio	138.80	148.50	+1.80	2.30
-do- Accum	258.40	276.60	+3.30	2.30
UK Growth	88.08	94.40	+0.18	2.70
UK Smaller Cos	85.85	91.46†	-0.19	2.50
Select Managers	81.58	87.42	+1.48	1.08
BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD 0171 250 3300				
Intl Gwth Port Inc	86.04	91.53	+4.38	
Special Oppor Inc	58.80	62.55	+2.99	..
BRITANNIA LIFE UNIT MGRS LTD 0141 223 6020				
Balanced Growth	125.36	132.65	+3.33	1.54
-do- Accum	143.43	151.78	+3.82	1.54
Smaller Cos	125.07	132.35†	+3.06	0.79
Higher Yield #	51.63	54.64	+1.33	4.30
American Gth Inc	86.20	91.22	+5.53	..
European Growth	151.06	159.85	+5.82	0.62
-do- Accum	154.09	163.00	+5.73	0.62
Global Bond Inc #	27.54	28.54†	+0.38	7.17
Mngd Ptflo Inc	47.41	50.15	+1.99	1.48
-do- Accum	48.62	51.43	+2.04	1.46
Intl Spec Opps	139.28	147.38	+8.57	..
Pacific Gth	134.34	142.16	+8.54	0.38
UK General #	85.72	90.71	+1.48	3.17
-do- Accum #	89.29	94.49	+1.53	3.17
Japan	80.29	83.80	+3.59	..
Gilt & Fixed Int #	181.07	194.73†	+0.82	8.59
BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD 0171 480 7216				
Short Dated Gilt	67.87	68.53	+0.40	6.19
C&S UNIT MANAGERS LTD 0181 837 5060				
Enviro	168.70	179.50†	-0.70	1.81
UK Growth	190.70	202.90	+2.40	2.08
UK Income	142.00	151.10	+1.40	4.27
CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD 01707 822 100				
Can Gen Dist	216.70	229.70	+3.40	1.72
-do- Income Dist	116.20	123.20†	+1.10	4.06
-do- Accum	365.70	387.60	+3.40	4.06
Gilt & Fxd Int	42.12	44.85	+0.39	6.09
Growth Units	230.90	248.90	+2.00	2.03
Bond	177.20	186.60	+1.10	6.23
Intl Growth	233.00	247.80	+6.60	0.30
North American	231.90	247.00	+9.20	0.27
Far East	288.60	308.70	+11.80	1.09
UK Smaller Cos	194.40	207.90	-1.80	1.46
European	88.61	95.07	+0.49	0.66
Japanese Growth	48.05	51.01	+2.80	..
High Income	204.70	218.90	+0.80	4.00
CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD 0161 831 7433 Enq 0161 831 7433 Dlg 0161 831 7456				
American & Gen	190.20	202.40	+9.10	..
European Inc	86.68	91.82	+0.59	1.01
Smaller Cos (4-1)	91.87	97.74	+0.15	1.45
Growth	487.40	518.60	+7.80	1.72
Income & Growth #	441.80	470.10	+5.30	3.85
-do- Accum #	643.80	684.70	+7.70	3.85
Japan & Gen	70.84	75.21	+4.77	..
Master Portfolio	£111.43	£115.14†	+197.00	2.15
-do- Accum	£135.14	£139.63	+238.00	2.15
Special Sits	113.70	121.00	+1.80	1.83
High Yield	£14.12	£14.56†	+9.00	4.39

Fund	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD 0171 606 0708				
Cazenove Portfolio	94.03	100.42	+1.52	2.58
American Portfolio	111.86	118.44†	+2.83	0.95
European Portfolio	111.58	118.96	+1.14	0.49
High Income	52.12	52.22†	+0.49	8.00
Japanese Portfolio	67.68	72.10	+3.57	
Pacific Portfolio	144.02	154.82†	+6.08	1.47
UK Inc & Growth	87.10	93.42	+1.41	3.04
Utility & Bond	57.86	58.53	+0.72	6.57
CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG 0171 588 1815				
Inv Fund	728.53	738.55	+3.75	4.30
Fxd Int Sec	159.59	160.23	+2.21	8.88
COIF CHARITY FUNDS 0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	721.60	732.50	+7.52	4.35
Investment Acc	[illegible]	[illegible]	+33.28	
Fixed Int Inc	128.65	129.37	+1.27	8.89
Fixed Int Acc	214.43	215.29	+2.14	
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD 0171 407 5966				
Beckman Intl	90.75	95.83†	+1.28	3.10
Beck Bio-Tech	39.89	43.06	+2.78	
Acorn Ethical Tst	161.89	170.80†	+0.03	0.73
City Fin Assets	74.56	78.29†	-0.23	2.08
City Fin America	103.52	108.70	+4.69	..
City Fin Intl	86.72	91.06†	+2.00	0.90
City Fin Japan	148.50	155.94	+3.78	
Friars Hse Cap	288.30	302.75	-0.19	2.36
Friars Hse Inc	193.50	209.72†	+0.40	4.54
Buckley Wrld Gwth	134.82	143.01	+1.90	
Fauna Cap Gth	142.23	149.72†	+1.54	..
[illegible] Intl	151.24	159.20†	+3.22	
J Sid Inc/Gth Inc	56.48	59.31	-0.32	1.97
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD 0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	54.56	57.89	+1.00	...
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD 0800 373 393				
American Gwth	76.10	81.39	+3.05	...
Dragon Growth	67.83	72.65	-3.24	0.97
Equity High Inc	87.43	93.87	+0.21	4.06
-do- Accum	122.21	130.93	+1.17	4.06
Extra Income Inc	26.78	28.21	+0.19	7.24
Extra Income Acc	27.87	29.35	-0.19	7.24
European Gwth	57.34	61.00	+0.30	1.14
Evergreen	28.77	30.77	+0.60	
General Equity	94.94	100.73	+1.64	2.87
Japan Growth	51.51	55.09	+3.56	
Pedigree Gwth	56.88	61.10	+0.92	2.79
Pedi Sm Cos Inc	33.88	35.19†	-0.18	1.56
-do- Accum	34.84	37.06	+0.19	1.56
Retirement Inc #	27.10	28.83	+0.17	5.60
Special Sits	42.79	45.52	+0.13	2.11
UK & Overseas	55.14	58.65	+1.84	0.76
COLONIAL UT MGRS LTD 01634 888 000				
Capital	75.36	78.49	+0.90	1.94
Balanced	65.57	68.24	+0.45	4.12
COMMERCIAL UNION FINANCIAL MGMT INTL LTD 0181 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	170.70	181.60	+1.34	4.82
Fixed & Convertible	41.01	43.63	+0.44	6.66
Monthly Inc Plus	49.59	52.76	-0.26	8.49
Preference Share	46.77	49.75	-0.53	7.84
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	129.46	137.72	+1.18	5.90
Managed Fund	72.97	77.63	-0.80	3.03
Uk Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	43.19	45.95	-0.69	1.77
-do- Accum	50.28	53.49	-0.82	1.77
Uk & General	88.69	94.35	+1.31	2.71
-do- Accum	113.82	121.09	-1.69	2.71
UK Growth	166.14	176.74	-2.89	2.29
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	198.74	211.43	-1.04	0.11
Far Eastern Gth	131.68	140.09	-7.59	
Global Bond	84.73	90.01	+1.68	5.97
Japan Growth	118.77	126.35	-7.75	
North Amer Gth	211.38	224.87	-9.61	..
Oriental Growth	79.03	84.07	+4.14	0.06
Worldwide Growth	71.40	75.96	+2.62	0.10
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	92.19	92.19	+0.13	6.17
Homemaker Fund	87.01	92.56	+1.54	1.63
Quilter Fund	144.52	153.74	+1.46	1.98
CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD 0171 407 5966				
Consistent UT	33.16	35.49	-0.20	3.35
COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD 0800 526 358				
Growth	171.00	187.90†	-3.80	1.78
Income	71.68	76.26	-0.56	5.74
European	65.53	69.71	+0.69	0.64
Recovery	168.10	178.80	-2.50	2.07
CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD 0171 283 9484				
Equity Dist	906.50	921.80†	+25.20	3.47
CREDIT SUISSE INV FDS (UK) LTD 01277 690 370				
Fellowship Tst	93.08	99.02	+2.21	1.51
Income #	265.80	282.50†	-3.20	4.24
-do- Accum #	681.20	721.60†	-5.20	4.24
Smaller Cos	196.80	209.30	+2.90	0.99
-do- Accum	242.30	257.70	+3.70	1.00
Inv Portfolio	90.40	96.18	+1.93	1.56
High Inc Port #	77.64	82.59	+0.51	4.32
DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD 0171 410 0177				
Euro Small Cos	1552.30	1603.50†	+3.30	..
Japan Small Cos	1170.40	1193.80†	+48.60	..
UK Small Cos	1913.30	1992.90	-5.30	
US Small Cos	1926.10	1966.80†	+53.50	..
DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS 0171 377 8819				
Disc Inc	218.90	230.50	.	2.93
DUNEDIN UNIT TST MGRS LTD 0131 315 2500				
European Gwth	298.80	315.80	+1.70	0.67
New Asia	219.00	233.70	+11.00	0.25
Japan Growth	110.50	117.60	+5.90	...
Jap Smlr Co	446.90	473.90	+20.50	..
Nth Amer	349.80	370.10	-15.90	0.80
Uk Inc & Gth	231.80	247.30	+2.40	2.88
EAGLE STAR UNIT MGRS LTD 01242 577 555				
UK Balanced Inc	155.20	165.10†	+0.10	1.62
UK High Inc Inc	164.10	174.50†	+1.70	4.13
-do- Accum	217.70	231.50†	+2.40	4.13
UK Pref & F I Inc	59.33	62.93†	-1.03	4.98
Envrnmntl Opps	92.52	98.42	+0.59	0.95
UK Smlr Cos #	80.73	84.60	+0.28	0.01
Extra Income Inc	48.88	51.87	+0.46	7.80
EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD 0345 090 528				
American	153.20	162.70†	+4.70	1.08
Convertibles #	21.25	22.58†	-0.32	8.20
Equity Income #	135.70	144.20†	+0.70	3.68
Eurofund	52.54	55.72	+0.25	0.38
Financial	50.15	53.28	+0.97	1.41
Growth & Inc #	268.50	283.20	+0.80	2.72
High Dist #	169.30	179.90†	+1.10	4.17
International	409.40	435.00	+12.80	0.11
Intl Cap Inc	98.84	105.50	-2.40	2.61
Latin American	25.97	27.59	+1.62	
Pacific	80.44	85.47	+3.64	
Prof High Inc	21.98	23.35	+0.37	7.07
Tokyo	227.20	241.20	-11.30	
UK Smaller Cos	251.89	267.50	-0.60	1.83
ELY PLACE UNIT MGRS LTD 0171 242 0242				
BRI Director Dlgs	98.69	105.10	+1.12	1.57
Growth Acc	238.02	254.23	..	0.58
Income	585.36	621.33	+1.82	5.21
ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD 0171 373 7281				
Endurance Fd	216.20	230.00	+4.30	1.20
EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 01296 431 480				
European	86.11	90.64	+0.76	1.99
Ethical Tst	46.17	48.60	+0.96	1.30
Far Eastern	300.22	316.02	+13.16	1.67
High Income	135.81	142.96†	+1.03	4.76
Intl Growth	124.27	130.81	+4.16	0.45
North American	136.34	143.52	+5.61	1.47
Pelican	130.17	137.02	+1.88	3.25
Smaller Cos	67.55	71.11	+0.08	2.98
Special Sits	88.06	92.69	-0.33	3.20
Tst of Inv Tsts	195.17	205.38	+1.82	1.27
EVERMORE FUND MGMT LTD 0171 407 5966				
Smaller Cos Inc	197.19	209.78†	+1.14	1.34
Smaller Cos Acc	349.98	371.26†	+2.03	1.34
Recovery	49.48	52.64†	+0.52	1.92
Recovery Acc	50.65	53.89†	+0.53	1.52
EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD 01392 412 144				
Capital Growth	88.36	94.76†	+0.45	..
Fd of Inv Tsts	48.14	51.35	+0.56	0.57
High Income #	41.12	44.07†	-0.01	10.43
Warrant	51.88	56.39	+0.21	..
Zero Preference	41.93	44.49	+0.15	..
FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD 01273 220 707				
Family Asset Tst	82.10	87.33†	+1.20	3.28
Family Income Tst	45.34	45.34†	+0.59	6.58
Family Trust	90.44	96.21†	-0.03	2.31
United Charities	264.80	281.70†	+3.80	5.11
FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD Callfree: Private Clients: 0800 414 161				
Cash Fund				
Cash Fund	100.00	100.00	..	6.20
Bond Funds				
Gilt & Fxd Int	28.28	28.35	+0.27	7.05
Intl Bond	30.50	31.84	+0.62	5.30
Income Funds				
High Income	25.52	26.83†	+0.15	5.38
Income Plus	120.80	128.50†		4.12
Amer Eq Inc	57.42	60.84	+2.27	1.45
European Income	45.02	47.87	+0.08	2.40
Far East Inc	66.30	70.43†	+2.61	2.34
Global Convertible	24.56	26.09	+0.31	2.68
UK Dv Gth	27.89	29.66	+0.32	2.18
Equity Funds				
ASEAN	62.10	66.24	+3.47	
American	304.40	322.70†	+14.40	
Amer Spec Sits	168.50	177.80	+12.50	..
Japan Smaller Cos	36.10	38.51	+2.08	..
European	196.90	208.40	+2.10	0.65
European Opps	69.95	74.38	+0.60	0.15
Global Pro	27.58	29.33	+0.35	0.76
UK Growth	106.89	113.60	+1.68	1.38
Growth & Inc	159.50	169.60	+1.60	2.76
Intl PEP	42.93	45.65	+1.10	1.06
Japan Spec Sits	86.85	94.61	+5.79	..
Japan	187.00	198.90	+11.00	..
Managed Intl	324.60	345.20	+13.50	0.43
Moneybuilder	59.94	63.74	+1.52	..
Recovery	59.23	63.48	+0.38	1.44
South E Asia	168.40	179.70	+8.70	1.08
Special Sits	597.20	635.00	+5.10	0.73
Specialist Funds				
Cash Accum Units	112.01	112.01	+0.10	6.20
FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD 0171 814 2700				
Balanced #	142.10	144.80	+2.00	2.03
Inc Ptflo #	88.08	90.48†	+0.19	3.41
Cap Ptflo	153.90	156.50	+3.10	1.45
General Opps	133.10	134.70†	+1.90	3.45
Growth Inc	34.02	34.75†	+0.50	1.34
Private Portfolio	452.10	480.90	+6.90	1.85
FOREIGN & COLONIAL UNIT MGT Enq 0171 454 1434 Dlg 01277 261 010				
European	123.50	131.00	+0.60	0.60
Emrg Asian	152.80	163.40	+8.70	...
High Income	21.27	22.60†	+0.02	9.49
UK Growth	118.80	126.90	+0.90	2.43
UK Income	107.70	114.90†	+0.60	4.26
US Smaller Cos	373.20	398.00	+13.60	0.38
FOSTER & BRAITHWAITE FUND MANAGEMENT LTD 0171 407 5966				
-do- Inv Tst Inc	77.18	81.18	+0.10	4.19
Investment Trust	99.82	104.12	+0.31	..
UK Smaller Cos	92.05	98.79	-0.08	0.98

Fund	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD Enq 0171 330 6500 Dealing 0345 775511				
American Growth	73.89	78.84	+3.80	..
-do- Accum	73.89	78.84	+3.80	..
Amer Smlr Cos	625.00	668.40	+35.60	..
-do- Accum	630.50	682.90	+36.60	..
Capital Tst	337.10	358.50	+1.10	1.37
-do- Accum	489.60	520.70	+1.60	1.37
Cont Smlr Cos	57.27	61.07	-0.27	0.82
-do- Accum	60.44	64.44	-0.28	0.82
Convertible	133.50	142.00	+0.10	5.35
-do- Accum	275.40	292.90	+0.30	5.35
Emerging Markets	63.94	68.31	+2.51	
-do- Accum	64.18	68.56	+2.71	
European	128.00	135.70	+1.10	0.35
-do- Accum	134.60	142.80	+1.30	0.35
Extra Income	363.00	388.60	+2.70	3.84
-do- Accum	557.40	592.80	+4.30	3.84
Financial	147.30	157.99†	+3.10	0.08
-do- Accum	156.80	167.10†	+3.20	0.08
Gilt Trust	64.62	66.63†	+0.80	6.17
-do- Accum	95.16	98.11†	+1.16	6.17
Health Fund Inc	209.30	223.50†	+14.10	..
-do- Accum	209.30	223.50†	+14.10	..
Income & Growth	207.60	220.80†	+1.90	3.48
-do- Accum	324.40	345.10†	+3.00	3.48
Intl Growth	408.20	433.70†	+19.40	..
-do- Accum	451.00	481.60†	+21.60	..
Japan & Gen	183.00	195.19	+10.70	
-do- Accum	184.80	197.10	+10.80	
Monthly Inc #	179.00	190.30†	+1.10	3.67
Managed Port Inc	113.80	119.80	+1.90	2.01
-do- Accum	122.20	128.60	+2.00	2.01
Quarterly Income #	53.35	57.28†	+0.12	3.86
-do- Accum #	59.15	63.49†	+0.14	3.86
Recovery	349.10	373.20	-7.50	0.12
-do- Accum	412.00	440.50	+8.90	0.12
UK Growth	59.88	64.01	+0.44	2.49
-do- Accum	63.46	67.85	+0.48	2.49
FRIENDS PROVIDENT UNIT TRUSTS Dealing 01705 881530 Enq 01705 881340				
FP American	55.35	58.88†	+2.32	0.46
FP Am Smlr Cos	165.10	176.50	+7.60	..
FP Asian Growth	262.80	281.00	+17.00	
FP Australian	365.50	392.10	+13.70	
FP Equity Dist	415.10	441.50†	+4.70	2.48
-do- Accum	900.10	957.50†	+9.70	2.48
FP Euro Gth	242.50	257.90	+1.70	0.18
-do- Accum	263.50	280.30	+1.80	0.18
FP Intl Bond	61.81	65.40	+1.02	4.54
FP Intl Gth Dist	35.35	37.72†	+1.16	0.48
-do- Accum	51.63	55.10†	+1.74	0.48
FP Pac Basin Acc	208.30	222.60†	+11.70	
FP Income	55.46	59.18	-1.17	3.62
-do- Accum	187.60	200.10	-7.10	3.62
FP Jap Smlr Cos	302.30	322.40	+13.50	
FP Monthly Dist	73.51	78.45	+0.30	5.08
FP Stlg Deposit	100.80	100.80	+0.10	6.25
FP Tokyo	81.67	87.11	+4.42	..
FP UK Focus	39.04	41.97	+0.61	5.60
FP UK Growth	186.50	198.90	+2.00	2.67
-do- Accum	366.20	390.60	+4.10	2.67
Stewardship Dist	369.00	392.50†	+0.30	1.99
-do- Accum	459.30	488.60†	+0.40	1.99
Stwdship Inc Dist	74.36	79.10	-0.05	4.73
-do- Accum	98.99	105.30	-8.10	4.73
N Am Stshp Dist	115.60	122.90	+3.20	0.99
-do- Accum	123.50	131.30	+3.50	0.99
FP Managed Portfolio Service:				
Capital Grwth Acc	116.90	124.30	+2.00	1.05
Open Cap Gth Acc	120.70	128.20	+2.50	0.07
Cap Gth Inc Inc	112.70	119.90	+1.60	2.25
Cap Gth Inc Acc	116.50	123.90	+1.70	2.25
Gpe Cp Gth Ic Ic	116.00	123.40	+1.40	3.35
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ac	120.60	128.20	+1.50	3.33
GA UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0345 581 106/7				
GANDA	364.80	380.10†	+3.00	2.20
Cash	49.45	50.19†	+0.05	5.30
Growth Portfolio	83.27	88.26	+2.19	0.93
Income Portfolio	66.66	70.50†	+0.51	4.37
GEM DOLPHIN INV MGRS LTD 0171 236 6441				
Special Sits	210.80	225.50	-5.50	1.50
Dividend	93.27	99.75	+1.18	4.78
Intl Gth & Inc	236.40	252.80	+5.20	3.12
UK & Gen	47.77	51.09	-0.56	2.56
Fund of Funds	69.29	74.11	-1.25	
GT UNIT MANAGERS LTD Inv 0800 212274 Dealing 0171 626 9431				
Amer Spec Sits	226.10	241.90	+5.10	
European	610.90	653.40	-9.40	0.29
Euro En & Bd Inc	51.53	55.01	+0.56	4.94
-do- Accum	56.09	59.88	+0.61	4.94
Far East & Gen	261.10	279.30	+13.30	
Germany	121.30	128.60	+1.60	
High Yield #	49.80	52.64†	-0.41	8.07
-do- Accum #	52.31	55.29	+0.44	8.07
Income Inc	170.70	182.60	+1.60	4.30
-do- Accum	188.30	201.40	+1.70	4.30
International	355.60	380.30	+10.70	
Intl Income	90.33	95.74	-0.83	3.01
Japan & General	435.30	463.70	-18.30	
Korean Securities	67.64	72.35	-0.65	
Orient Acc	140.80	150.60	+8.70	0.23
Smlr Cos Dv Inc	45.16	48.30	+0.11	4.18
-do- Accum	49.87	53.34	+0.13	4.18
UK Capital Inc	180.80	193.40	+1.60	1.48
UK Capital Acc	318.80	341.00	+2.80	1.48
UK Spec Sits	93.16	99.64	-0.13	1.30
US & General	177.00	189.00	-7.20	
Wwide Spec Sits	153.30	163.90	-5.70	..
GARTMORE FUND MANAGERS 0171 782 2000 Dlgs only: 01277 264 421				
UK Growth Funds				
British Growth	56.63	60.43	+0.17	1.72
Cash Trust	141.18	141.18†	-0.12	6.27
Practical Inv Inc #	119.87	128.20	-1.46	2.65
-do- Accum #	281.33	300.89	+3.46	2.65
UK Index	168.75	167.59	-1.82	3.25
UK Smaller Cos	146.22	156.39	-0.34	0.66
Income Funds				
Extra Yield	24.45	25.34	+0.24	7.89
High Income	34.15	36.46†	+0.19	5.21
UK Equity Income	149.71	160.13	-1.79	2.64
Global Bond	30.91	32.03	+0.51	5.06
International Funds				
Emerging Markets	43.26	46.27	+2.00	
Global Managed	143.95	153.21	+4.56	1.46
Gold & Intl Res	108.75	114.17	+4.09	
Global Utilities	142.11	151.83	+4.49	1.45
Overseas Funds				
American	180.10	191.86	+8.40	0.87
European	118.27	126.39	+2.15	0.97
Euro Sel Opps	175.74	186.66	+2.27	
Amer Emerging	141.47	151.31†	+8.64	
Hong Kong	148.02	158.51	+9.42	2.07
Japan	248.98	264.30	+16.49	
Pacific Growth	215.96	230.97	+12.30	
Gartmore Pensions Strategy Funds				
Managed Equity	236.83	236.83	+4.14	2.07
Long Term Bd	259.30	259.30	+4.09	3.08
Med Term Bal	217.21	217.21	+2.47	3.16
UK Equity	273.63	273.63†	+3.07	2.46
UK Emerging Cos	155.06	155.06†	+0.49	1.99
American	294.78	294.78	+10.80	1.10
Japan	130.70	130.70	+8.59	
European	307.63	307.63	+3.50	1.07
Index Linked Gilt	180.28	180.28†	+0.85	2.67
Fixed Interest	170.93	170.93†	+1.88	8.45
Amer Emerges	331.70	331.70	+15.81	
Pacific	239.41	239.41†	+10.23	0.67
Emerging Mkts	116.25	116.25	+2.79	0.89
Index Strat Japan	154.01	154.01	+8.94	0.19
-do- Pacific Rim	189.35	189.35	+11.09	1.34
-do- Cont Europe	170.75	170.75	+1.60	2.02
Index Strat USA	170.77	170.77	+5.53	1.90
Gartmore Personal Pension Funds				
Managed Equity	111.56	118.68	+2.02	
Med Term Bal	103.30	109.89	+1.24	
Long Term Bal	116.51	123.95	+1.93	
UK Equity	126.62	134.70	+1.51	
UK Emerging Cos	72.69	77.33	+0.54	
American	136.78	145.52	+5.34	
Japan	82.54	88.53	+4.37	
European	127.85	136.01	+1.81	
Fixed Interest	86.89	92.43	+0.89	
Index Linked Gilt	80.08	85.20	+0.37	
Deposit	83.85	89.20	+0.28	
Broker Unit Trusts				
BWH Intl	150.32	158.23	+2.51	0.54
Brwlf Gth Port Inc	68.86	72.48	+2.16	0.80
-do- Inc Port Inc	61.23	64.62†	+1.43	3.50
-do- Wwide Port	58.25	61.48	+2.54	0.10
Shaw Utilities	66.15	69.62†	+1.59	3.15
GLOBAL ASSET MANAGEMENT GAM Sterling Management 0171 493 9990				
Stlg & Intl Inc	581.24	618.34	+4.40	2.26
-do- Accum	646.46	687.72	+4.90	2.26
European Inc	158.83	168.97	+0.06	1.29
Amalgam Inc	151.70	160.72	+0.87	..
N America Inc	355.29	377.97	+9.54	0.80
Far East Inc	366.53	389.93	+11.81	
-do- Accum	379.61	403.85	+12.23	
UK Dvdd Inc	191.13	203.33	+1.41	3.27
GOVETT (JOHN) UNIT MGMT LTD 0171 378 7979 Dealing: 0171 407 7888				
UK Equity Inc	98.43	105.26	-1.43	4.35
UK Small Cos	58.24	62.28	+0.77	0.71
British Growth	65.68	70.24	+0.58	2.44
American Gwth	253.22	270.81	+22.67	
Japan Gwth	66.71	71.33	+2.27	
Greater China	180.21	192.73	+8.99	0.56
Pacific Strategy	151.87	162.42	+7.09	0.55
European Gwth	96.85	103.83†	+1.10	0.69
Intl Growth	162.53	173.82	+5.33	
US Index (E)	16.8493	17.7534	+0.59	4.80
FT-SE Mid 250 Ind	82.49	88.21	+1.24	2.13
Monthly Income	40.86	43.35†	+0.11	8.00
MIS Unit Trust Dealing 071 865 0033				
Grd Uk Index (P)	13.4936	14.2452	+0.97	5.50
GRANVILLE UNIT TST MGMT LTD 0171 488 1212				
Small Cos	96.66	102.83		1.49
GUARDIAN UT MGRS LTD 0171 538 8686				
European	527.70	563.70	+3.20	0.49
Gilt & Fixed	132.60	140.70	+1.30	5.57
Growth Equity	385.20	411.50†	+10.40	1.45
Income Trust	146.10	156.00	+0.70	3.25
International	200.10	213.70	+6.30	0.21
Japan Trust	131.20	140.10	+7.40	..
Nth American	329.60	352.10	+12.40	..
Pacific	549.90	587.50	+31.20	0.28
Guardhill	583.60	623.40	+15.20	1.55
GUINNESS FLIGHT UT MGRS LTD 0171 522 2128				
EMU Trust	107.50	111.80†	-0.93	6.35
Global High Inc	103.63	107.60	+2.37	6.17
Corporate Bond	106.29	110.23	+0.76	6.41
Eqty & Bond Inc	109.48	118.41	+0.60	5.03
European Growth	114.61	121.86	+1.52	.
Intl PEP Trust	67.05	71.29	+2.29	
Equity Inc	128.94	137.09†	-1.18	4.09
-do- Accum	183.47	195.07	-1.67	4.04
Recovery	343.20	364.90†	-5.10	2.16
-do- Accum	402.20	427.60	-5.90	2.12
Gt Vlue High Inc	123.58	131.52	+8.30	6.36
UK Emrg Cos	266.60	283.40†	-0.80	1.93
UK Smlr Cos	384.40	391.20	+0.50	2.46
Glob Prtv Tst	99.14	105.41	+2.55	1.34
-do- Accum	100.99	107.37	+2.60	1.35
Inc Share Tst	88.81	94.43†	-1.88	7.07
HALIFAX UT MGMT LTD Dealing: 0171 220 5050				
Growth	29.93	31.73	+0.34	1.83
Growth Acc	30.31	32.14	+0.34	1.83
Income	29.27	31.03	-0.10	4.51
Income Acc	30.28	32.10	+0.20	4.51
HAMBROS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 690 390				
Model Ptflo	224.40	235.90	+2.60	2.40
Smaller Cos	33.73	35.88	+0.01	1.20
HENDERSON TOUCHE REMNANT Enquiries: 01277 263 200 Dealing: 01277 234 772				
UK Funds				
Special Sits	343.80	367.86	+7.23	1.28
Best of British	67.83	71.89†	+0.96	2.87
UK Smaller Cos	137.73	148.05	-0.22	1.78
High Income Funds				
Income & Growth #	291.38	319.30†	+2.24	3.70
-do- Accum #	807.14	859.58	+6.19	3.70
High Income	328.36	351.01†	+1.02	4.45
Extra Income #	290.87	309.34†	+1.78	5.00
Fixd & Bond	46.10	49.71†	+0.53	8.50
International				
International	302.12	322.14	+12.97	
Global Bond	59.51	61.70†	+1.34	5.03
Intl Port Tst	90.89	97.31†	+1.54	0.63
Global Tech	248.06	264.98†	+14.98	..
Overseas Funds				
Asian Enterprise	174.83	186.96	+9.03	0.60
European	538.39	570.49†	-2.60	0.68
European Income #	86.21	91.48	+0.73	2.60

Fund	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Euro Smlr Cos	158.51	169.88†	-1.49	0.84
Eur Sp Sits	78.97	84.23	+0.61	1.48
-do- Accum	84.59	90.23	+0.65	1.48
Japan Trust	224.52	238.30	+10.93	...
Japan Special Sits	219.95	234.52	+9.91	...
Pacific Smlr Cos	230.37	246.49	+11.23	
North American	287.66	305.62	+11.11	...
American Smaller	144.14	154.08	+8.92	...
HILL SAMUEL UNIT TST MGRS 0181 686 4355				
British	111.73	116.98†	+1.36	1.86
Capital	192.80	201.98	+4.43	1.37
Dollar	446.25	466.23†	-18.69	..
Enterprise Gth	371.33	388.83	+0.79	1.43
European	252.27	264.16	+2.33	0.48
Far East	318.12	324.74	+15.80	...
Financial	965.07	1010.10	+19.32	1.64
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	26.25	27.38	+0.20	6.95
High Yield	107.82	112.69†	+0.93	3.65
Income & Growth	154.05	161.31†	+1.06	3.14
International	281.75	295.03	+9.26	.
Japanese General	215.80	225.96	+11.53	.
Japan Tech	94.57	98.98	+6.98	.
Nat Resources	79.16	82.89	+3.06	..
Portfolio	80.15	83.92†	+1.65	1.33
Smaller Cos	141.77	148.45	-0.30	1.10
Special Sits	177.11	185.46	+3.39	0.87
UK Emerging Cos	105.32	110.28	+0.30	0.90
US Smaller Cos	125.30	131.20	+6.97	..
HSBC UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD Advisers: 0800 181 890 Investors: 0800 289 505				
UK Funds				
Balanced #	108.70	117.10†	+0.90	5.80
Capital	664.70	709.40	+8.70	2.17
Income #	618.50	658.80	-3.70	5.38
Flexible Fund	61.44	61.75	-0.92	2.90
Treble Index	114.00	120.60	+0.60	2.34
UK Index	156.40	165.50	+1.80	3.21
International Funds				
American Growth	567.50	609.90	-18.20	0.35
American Index	256.00	270.90	+9.00	1.25
European Growth	125.00	133.10	+7.60	0.15
Eurotrack 100	180.90	191.40	-1.00	1.01
Global Bond	23.32	24.60	+0.51	5.08
Japan Growth	287.00	306.20	+13.40	..
Japan Index	82.37	87.16	+4.82	0.19
Japan Smlr Cos	31.29	33.39	+1.47	
Far Eastern Funds				
Asian	60.57	64.64	+3.70	0.18
Hong Kong Gwth	118.70	126.70	+7.50	1.26
Spore & Mlysn Gth	77.12	82.31	+5.10	
Tiger Index	201.80	215.50	+11.80	1.06
INVESCO FUND MANAGERS LTD 0171 626 3434 Dealing 0800 010 733				
UK Specialist Trusts				
UK Smaller Cos	40.77	42.35	-0.72	0.66
General Funds				
Managed	81.25	84.46†	+1.87	1.32
Rupert Child Fnd	95.32	99.09	+1.12	2.25
UK Growth	65.96	68.57†	-0.62	2.17
High Income Funds				
UK Extra Inc	85.82	89.21	+0.21	6.57
Gilt & Fixed Int	27.43	28.30	+0.24	7.75
UK Inc & Gwth	44.55	46.31†	+0.71	3.30
UK Income	348.60	362.43†	+5.70	4.85
Overseas Growth Funds				
American Growth	58.85	61.34	-1.97	0.21
Amer Smlr Cos	139.80	145.30	-7.72	
-do- Accum	141.30	146.90	-7.80	
Europe Gth	186.10	193.10	+2.80	
-do- Accum	192.80	200.00	-2.50	
Euro Smaller Cos	34.00	35.34	-0.24	
France Growth	81.12	84.32	-2.73	0.25
-do- Accum	87.03	90.47	-2.91	0.25
H Kong & China	86.17	89.57	-5.06	1.33
Intl Growth	63.64	66.15†	-1.94	0.52
-do- Accum	64.52	67.07†	+1.95	0.52
Japan Gth	33.30	34.62	-2.09	.
-do- Accum	33.30	34.62	-2.03	
Japan Smaller Cos	39.64	41.21	-2.73	
Glob Emg Mkts	92.14	95.78	-3.53	
-do- Accum	92.89	95.47	+3.57	
SE Asia	326.10	339.00	+16.10	0.03
Overseas Income Funds				
Intl Bond	57.24	59.97†	+1.13	5.69
JOHNSON FRY UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD Enq 01277 227300 Dealing 01277 261010				
Sector Value Inc	93.19	103.50	-1.40	4.83
Sector Value Gwth	98.69	104.10	-1.50	1.52
JUPITER UT MGRS LTD 0171 581 3020				
World Health	192.60	204.90	-10.70	
Income	186.26	198.15	+2.96	3.68
UK Growth	72.42	77.04	-0.56	0.48
International	79.69	84.77	-2.23	0.07
Ecology	90.98	96.78	+0.81	1.11
European	143.89	153.07	-0.47	
Far Eastern	301.10	320.20	-16.20	
KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS Dealers: 0171 956 7354				
Income Trusts				
Bond Income	100.10	103.40	-0.59	7.44
Gilt Yield	118.60	125.40†	-7.30	6.76

"Read my lips, there will be no tax increases."

PERUDO
Dice Of The Andes

The compulsive dice game for compulsive liars.

Fund	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Global Income	221.60	235.70†	+4.60	3.68
High Yield	146.10	153.40	+0.80	5.75
-do- Accum	461.20	490.80	+2.70	5.75
Smlr Cos Div	55.19	58.71†	-0.16	2.92
Capital Growth Trusts				
Amer Smlr Cos	128.20	136.40	+6.20	..
Asian Growth	321.10	341.60	+17.20	0.24
-do- Accum	377.30	401.40	+20.20	0.24
North American	98.21	104.48	+3.38	0.16
European Special	117.30	124.80	-1.90	0.10
European	163.80	174.30†	-0.50	0.47
-do- Accum	218.00	229.80†	-0.50	0.47
Global Eqty Inc	114.20	121.30	+2.60	2.12
Japan	421.20	448.10	+21.40	..
Japanese Special	229.70	244.40	+10.30	
Smaller Cos	121.60	129.40†	+1.30	1.18
UK Equity Growth	43.99	46.80	-0.86	1.58
UK Index Inc	310.00	313.10†	+4.00	3.47
Bircham Tst	100.80	108.60		2.76
-do- Accum	100.80	108.60		2.76
LAURENCE KEEN UNIT TRUST MGMT 0171 407 5966				
Bridge Income	278.50	296.28†	+2.27	5.22
Inc & Growth Inc	60.14	63.98	+0.52	4.27
Smaller Cos	69.29	73.71†	+2.20	1.37
LAURENTIAN UNIT TST MGMT LTD Enq: 01452 371 500 Dlg: 01452 371 623				
Growth Trust	274.80	292.30	+1.80	1.84
High Income	113.60	120.80	+1.10	4.31
International	106.50	113.20	+4.60	0.53
European Trust	81.78	87.00	+0.53	0.88
Japanese Trust	43.23	45.98	+2.60	
American Trust	106.90	113.70	+5.70	..
LAZARD UNIT TST MGRS LTD 01277 690 432				
UK Cap	410.10	435.10	+2.90	2.35
UK Inc/Gth	441.40	468.30	+1.90	2.98
UK Income	305.40	324.00	+7.10	3.70
UK Sm Cos	261.40	279.60	-0.30	1.76
Euro Gwth	145.60	154.20†	+1.90	...
N Amer Gwth	110.10	116.40†	+2.50	0.23
Japan Growth	65.79	69.80†	+3.39	.
Money Mkt	127.949	127.949	..	0.000
LEGAL & GENERAL (UT MGRS) LTD Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 690 365				
Equity Dist	537.40	571.70	+6.70	2.69
-do- Accum	£10.85	£11.54	+14.00	2.60
Equity Income #	104.20	110.90	+0.40	4.36
UK Tactical Allocn	63.49	67.42	+0.99	4.08
European	137.20	139.60	+0.90	1.64
Far Eastern	222.70	236.90	+15.80	..
Fixed Interest	54.07	57.51	+0.58	7.02
Gilt	91.49	97.02†	+0.90	6.32
Global Growth	78.96	84.00†	+2.97	0.36
Intl Bond	56.45	59.93	-1.16	5.26
Japanese	75.12	79.92†	+4.10	..
North American	186.50	198.40	+7.90	0.61
Pacific Growth	110.40	117.40	+7.10	0.24
UK Index	70.05	74.19†	+0.89	3.05
UK Recovery	104.10	110.70†	+1.30	1.98
UK Smaller Cos	138.70	147.50	+0.39	1.44
US Index	78.39	80.62	+2.79	1.40
European Index	83.72	88.96	+0.63	2.18
Japan Index	42.21	44.55	+2.54	..
Worldwide	91.05	96.86†	+1.76	1.45
LINCOLN NATIONAL 0181 902 8878 Dealing: 0800 282 621				
Growth	53.68	57.41	+0.37	2.14
Income	63.58	67.97	+0.36	2.96
Far East	54.94	58.75	+3.82	..
North American	129.40	138.30	+6.60	..
Global	106.50	113.80	-4.50	0.19
European	92.36	98.58	+0.79	0.66
Japan	108.90	114.30	+8.00	..
Intl Currency Bd	62.92	66.88†	+1.11	4.19
SE Asia	104.50	111.70	+5.70	..
UK Cap Growth	98.55	105.40†	+0.70	1.67
Recovery Trust	70.82	75.34	+0.28	1.47
Managed	72.24	76.85	+3.14	0.64
Cash	51.31	51.31	+0.04	5.21
LLOYDS BK UNIT TST MGRS LTD Helpdesk: 01634 834 339 Dealing: 01634 834 313				
Balanced	371.10	394.80†	-0.60	2.80
-do- Accum	866.10	921.40	-1.50	2.80
Contl Euro Gth	71.18	74.93†	-0.18	1.21
-do- Accum	76.60	80.64	-0.19	1.21
Extra Inc	272.80	290.30†	+2.00	4.15
-do- Accum	733.70	780.80	+5.30	4.15
FTSE 100 Inc	112.80	120.00	+1.60	2.53
FTSE 100 Acc	114.80	122.20	+1.70	2.53
German Gth	[illegible]	142.00	+3.00	
-do- Accum	141.50	149.00	+3.30	..
Growth Port	602.00	640.50	+9.20	0.09
-do- Accum	619.90	659.50	+9.50	0.09
High Interest Inc	99.29	102.90	+0.90	7.74
High Interest Acc	99.29	102.90	+0.90	7.74
Hi Reserve Inc #	105.00	111.80†	+0.60	6.78
Hi Reserve Acc #	109.90	116.90	+0.60	6.78
Income	524.30	557.80	+11.90	3.38
-do- Accum	£14.54	£15.47	+32.00	3.38
Income Port	543.10	577.80†	+4.80	4.47

Fund	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
-do- Accum	591.70	629.50	+5.29	4.47
Japan Growth	112.00	119.20	+5.39	..
-do- Accum	112.40	119.60	+5.30	..
Master Trust	63.77	67.85	+1.82	1.21
-do- Accum	72.46	77.09	+2.09	1.21
N American Gro	225.10	240.60	+9.49	0.58
-do- Accum	261.50	278.20	+9.70	0.60
NAm Sm Co Rec	178.48	187.70	+9.80	..
-do- Accum	180.00	191.50	+9.70	...
Pacific Basin	258.60	275.20	+14.20	0.36
-do- Accum	274.80	292.40	+15.10	0.36
Small Cos Rec	434.10	457.00†	+14.70	1.91
-do- Accum	591.30	622.50	+20.20	1.91
Uk Growth	95.24	101.40	-1.30	2.04
-do- Accum	117.30	124.80	+1.60	2.04
Worldwide Gth	343.40	365.40†	+11.70	..
-do- Accum	507.40	539.80	+17.20	...
LONDON & MANCHESTER TST MGMT 01392 282 673				
American	90.42	96.15	+2.90	0.40
General	98.95	106.17†	+1.23	2.30
Income	69.18	74.14	+0.51	5.40
International	70.82	75.77	+2.38	0.40
Japan	59.63	63.58	+3.10	.
Tst of Inv Trsts	70.99	76.17	-0.39	1.50
M & G SECURITIES Cust Svcs/Unit Dlg: 01345 390 390				
Amer & General	483.50	511.30	+19.40	0.35
-do- Accum	603.60	638.20	+24.10	0.36
Amer Recovery	528.60	558.40†	+20.33	0.53
-do- Accum	608.40	643.40†	+23.40	0.53
Amer Smlr Cos	148.40	156.90	+6.60	..
-do- Accum	151.60	160.30	+6.70	..
Australasian	165.10	174.60	+5.50	2.49
-do- Accum	203.70	215.50	+6.50	2.49
Capital	899.40	951.10	-0.10	2.94
-do- Accum	1043.20	1103.00	...	2.94
Charifund	728.40	735.70†	+4.20	5.07
-do- Accum	3380.40	3516.30†	+23.60	5.07
Commodity	422.90	447.20	-6.50	0.38
-do- Accum	622.60	658.60	-9.20	0.38
Compound Gth	1038.40	1098.10†	+7.40	2.89
-do- Accum	1117.30	1191.50†	+8.00	2.89
Dividend	43.30	45.78†	-0.25	4.38
-do- Accum	188.20	199.40†	-6.90	4.38
Equity Income	340.10	359.70	-7.20	5.26
-do- Accum	451.40	477.40	-9.50	5.26
Euro & General	541.80	573.00	[illegible]	1.21
-do- Accum	690.50	730.30	-8.20	1.21
Euro Dividend	78.40	82.80	-0.50	3.79
-do- Accum	94.10	99.73	-0.70	3.79
Extra Yield	443.00	468.50	-2.70	4.57
-do- Accum	1434.80	1517.50	[illegible]	4.52
Far Eastern	353.10	379.30	+19.70	0.46
-do- Accum	472.90	506.60	+26.40	0.46
Fund of Inv Tsts	650.20	687.60†	[illegible]	1.57
-do- Accum	1235.30	1306.40†	-2.30	1.57
General	69.20	73.50	[illegible]	[illegible]
-do- Accum	188.60	199.50	[illegible]	3.86
Gilt Income	61.94	63.02†	-0.32	6.92
-do- Accum	[illegible]	182.80†	-0.96	6.92
Gold	65.30	69.73	[illegible]	0.76
-do- Accum	73.10	82.70	[illegible]	[illegible]
High Income	31.60	33.40	[illegible]	4.77
-do- Accum	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	4.77
Intl Growth	94.32	99.23	[illegible]	2.34
-do- Accum	149.10	157.90	[illegible]	0.84
International Inc	164.62	171.73	[illegible]	4.00
-do- Accum	163.20	172.60	[illegible]	4.00
Japan & Gen	43.90	45.35†	-2.50	
-do- Accum	45.90	48.57†	[illegible]	
Japan Smlr Cos	147.10	155.60†	-5.50	
-do- Accum	148.10	159.20†	[illegible]	
Managed Gwth	25.20	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Managed Income	22.00	23.40†	[illegible]	4.27
Midland	59.60	63.00	[illegible]	[illegible]
-do- Accum	[illegible]	216.40	[illegible]	[illegible]
Pension Ex	1008.40	[illegible]	-0.60	4.29
Recovery	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
-do- Accum	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Second General	73.50	76.50	[illegible]	[illegible]
-do- Accum	199.90	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Smaller Cos	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
-do- Accum	[illegible]	149.90	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sterling Hi Int	25.64	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Treasury	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	6.37
Trustee	[illegible]	44.67	[illegible]	[illegible]
-do- Accum	176.50	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
MGM UNIT MANAGERS LTD Dealing: 01277 261 010 Enq: 01903 204 631				
European Growth	[illegible]	34.55	[illegible]	[illegible]
Intl Bond	67.68	[illegible]	-1.32	[illegible]
Intl Equity Growth	[illegible]	65.31†	[illegible]	[illegible]
N Amer Growth	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Special Sits Growth	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
UK Growth	417.65	444.20	-4.24	[illegible]
-do- Accum	[illegible]	[illegible]	-5.58	[illegible]
MW JOINT INVESTORS LTD 01620 825667				
Balanced Fd #	1421.40	1441.50†	-14.80	[illegible]
Income #	1039.50	1056.30	-14.50	[illegible]
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0131 222 4242				
Maldon General	158.10	162.20	-1.60	[illegible]
For Manulife see Canada Life				
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD 01244 680 066				
M & S Inv Ptflo	168.60	177.50	+2.90	2.13
-do- Accum	196.20	206.50	+3.30	2.13
UK Sel Ptflo	145.90	153.60†	-0.10	2.52
-do- Accum	173.50	182.60†	+1.80	2.52
MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD 01204 394 842				
Managed Tst	72.76	77.41	+0.21	3.70
MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD 0131 479 4848				
Intl Income	79.21	84.09	+1.83	4.11
European	92.62	98.32	+1.00	1.16
Income #	80.27	85.21†	+2.42	4.19
Nth American	81.39	86.40	+2.61	0.43
Far East	170.80	181.30	+11.00	0.05
Japan	60.61	64.34	+3.60	
Emgng Mkts	84.96	90.87	+4.78	0.02
Intl Growth	120.60	128.00	+4.10	0.57
Uk Growth	106.60	113.20†	+1.30	1.62
UK Smlr Co	52.21	55.42†	+1.43	1.34
Asian Opps Fd	37.28	39.87	+2.59	0.45
Glob Gwth PEP	56.31	59.77	+1.40	0.47
MATHESON UNIT TRUSTS LTD 0181 831 7433				
Select Portfolio	97.04	103.23	+3.35	
MAYFLOWER MANAGEMENT CO LTD 0171 407 5868				
Income	456.49	485.63	+5.61	3.66
Global Inc	74.97	79.76	+1.05	3.50
Brit Leaders	387.35	412.07	+3.51	1.70
Intl Leaders	219.26	233.26	+3.63	1.33
PAM Mg Bal Grth	68.11	70.76	+1.34	0.73
MERCURY FUND MANAGERS LTD Dealing: 0171 280 2060				
American	242.50	256.90†	+8.30	
-do- Accum	259.40	274.60†	+8.80	
American Opps	113.80	121.40†	+4.80	
-do- Accum	115.30	123.00†	+4.90	..
British Blue Chip	89.13	94.64	+0.74	2.54
-do- Accum	112.80	119.80	+1.00	2.54
Cash	100.60	100.60		6.48
-do- Accum	142.90	142.90	+0.10	6.48
Emerging Mkts	107.20	115.30	+5.00	0.12
-do- Accum	107.80	115.90	+4.80	0.12
European Growth	269.70	286.50		0.16
-do- Accum	292.70	310.90	-0.10	0.16
European Income	90.38	95.69	+0.86	3.00
-do- Accum	125.50	132.90	+0.10	3.00
General	561.80	597.70	+4.00	2.07
-do- Accum	1121.00	1192.00	+8.00	2.07
Global Bond	134.00	140.80	+1.70	5.24
-do- Accum	168.90	177.40	+2.10	5.24
Gold & General	210.10	225.90	-10.10	0.40
-do- Accum	216.90	233.20	-10.30	0.40
Govt Securities	93.32	98.22†	-1.90	6.10
-do- Accum	190.80	196.70†	-1.00	6.10
High Yield Bd	101.10	104.60†	-1.00	7.06
-do- Accum	102.50	106.10†	+0.50	7.06
Income	171.10	181.70†	+0.30	4.16
-do- Accum	275.40	292.60†	-0.50	4.16
Inc Portfolio #	106.30	112.70	+0.60	4.66
-do- Accum #	111.00	117.70	-0.60	4.66
Intl Opps	499.80	532.90†	-8.60	0.17
-do- Accum	672.40	717.20†	+14.70	0.17
Japan	173.50	183.80	+7.40	
-do- Accum	178.20	188.60	+7.50	
New Europe	198.60	212.90	-0.50	0.94
-do- Accum	205.70	219.40	-0.60	0.94
Pacific	114.30	121.90	+5.30	0.84
-do- Accum	122.70	130.90	+5.80	0.84
Recovery	340.00	362.70†	+2.70	0.72
-do- Accum	440.80	470.20†	+3.50	0.72
UK Smaller Cos	56.94	60.74	+0.12	0.85
-do- Accum	65.00	69.33	+0.12	0.85
Portfolio	86.62	94.04	-1.05	2.46
-do- Accum	106.70	113.20	+1.20	2.46
Managed Grth	108.20	113.30†	+0.90	1.68
Managed Inc	112.30	118.50†	-1.20	3.86
METROPOLITAN UT MGRS LTD 01707 662 233				
Eurogrowth Plus	127.28	135.40	+0.84	0.18
Portfolio	73.73	78.44	+0.93	1.53
UK Income Inc	84.39	89.78	+0.61	4.85
MIDLAND UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD Enq: 0345 456 123 Dlg: 0345 456 120				
Balanced	65.06	68.13	+0.84	2.83
-do- Accum	70.51	73.83	+0.90	2.83
British Tst	97.91	102.50	+1.40	2.00
-do- Accum	114.90	120.30	+1.70	2.00
Extra High Inc	70.19	73.50	+0.77	6.40
-do- Accum	141.80	148.40	+1.50	6.40
FT-SE 100 Acc	63.24	66.21	+0.89	2.50
FT-SE 100 Dist	61.33	64.22	+0.86	2.50
Gilt & Fxd Int	56.26	58.54†	-0.17	6.63
-do- Accum	171.60	178.60†	+1.70	6.63
High Yield	229.80	240.80†	+2.50	6.01
-do- Accum	606.30	634.80†	+6.70	6.01
Income	306.40	320.80	+2.90	3.84
-do- Accum	689.10	721.50	+6.60	3.84
Money Market UT	49.34	49.34†	+0.05	5.56
-do- Accum	80.10	80.10†	+0.08	5.56
Monthly Income	90.22	94.47†	+1.01	4.85
Midland Personal Pension Unit Trust				
British	120.10	127.80	+1.80	1.54
European Growth	115.80	122.70	+1.50	0.02
Gilt & Fixed	94.67	100.40	+0.95	5.53
Income	93.88	99.67	+0.68	2.56

Fund	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Japan Growth	50.46	53.49	-0.91	
Managed	77.19	82.12	-1.64	2.14
Money Market	[illegible]	96.15	-0.12	4.15
North American	103.90	110.10	-2.50	0.41
[illegible]				
British	108.50	115.30	-1.60	1.52
European Growth	108.80	115.35	-1.40	0.31
Gilt & Fixed Int	[illegible]	95.22	-0.92	5.52
Income	92.32	97.96	-0.85	2.82
Japan Growth	50.24	53.25	-0.89	.
Managed	73.07	77.73	-0.23	2.14
Money Market	[illegible]	88.72	+0.11	4.14
North American	93.92	99.56	-2.42	0.49
Midland Executive Pension Unit Trust				
British	108.73	115.50	-1.50	1.52
European Growth	106.20	112.50	-1.40	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	82.52	87.35	-0.93	5.64
Income	90.47	96.24	-0.82	2.65
Japan Growth	51.37	54.45	-0.92	
Managed	76.56	81.43	-1.32	2.13
Money Market	[illegible]	82.47	+0.08	4.22
North American	[illegible]	111.20	-2.80	0.38
MILLENNIUM FUND MGMT LTD 0171 407 5966				
International (US$)	14.25	15.20	-0.30	
MORGAN GRENFELL INVEST FDS LTD Dealers: 0171 588 7474 Enquiries: 0171 588 7171				
American Gwth	441.80	469.20	-17.40	
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	-52.70	..
-do- Accum	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	..
[illegible]	[illegible]	233.40†	+7.50	..
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	-1.50	2.32
-do- Accum	272.90	290.30	-3.30	2.52
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	2.53
-do- Accum	[illegible]	[illegible]	-2.40	2.53
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	-9.20	1.04
Japan Tracker	[illegible]	[illegible]	+4.66	
Asian Tracker	[illegible]	[illegible]	-10.50	0.25
Managed Inc	[illegible]	164.63†	-2.80	2.03
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Europe	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1.64
High Income	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
MURRAY JOHNSTONE UT MGMT 0345 390 335				
American	[illegible]	[illegible]	-1.52	2.44
American Inc	[illegible]	[illegible]	-1.38	2.44
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
NFU MUTUAL UNIT MGRS LTD	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible] UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
NPI INVESTMENT MGRS 0171 623 4200	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
NATIONAL WESTMINSTER UT MGRS	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
NEWTON FUND MGRS LTD	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
NORTHERN ROCK UNIT TRUST LTD 0191 285 2688				
Managed	[illegible]	112.13	-0.40	2.38
NORWICH UNION TST MANAGERS 01603 682 334				
Master Trust	134.38	141.45	-2.63	1.26
UK Equity	145.51	153.22	-1.67	2.95
UK Equity Income	141.93	149.49†	-1.41	3.35
UK Smaller Cos	124.40	131.34	-0.71	1.53
UK Equity Growth	[illegible]	153.91	-1.89	2.17
UK Index Trckg	[illegible]	185.11	-2.03	3.40
Intl Index Trckg	[illegible]	[illegible]	-6.29	1.05
International	[illegible]	236.17†	-2.82	0.70
European	229.62	236.44	-3.17	0.23
Pan European	[illegible]	157.63†	-1.99	1.30
Nth American	215.44	226.78†	-6.51	0.10
N Amer Smlr Cos	230.56	242.69	-9.67	
Japanese	94.23	99.21†	-5.74	
Pacific	237.76	250.31†	-13.13	0.59
South East Asian	264.58	278.61	-14.91	0.76
Intl Bond	145.17	152.61	-2.50	4.90
Gilt & Convertible	113.94	116.78	+1.33	6.04
Property	77.56	81.13†	-2.27	7.05
OLD MUTUAL FUND MGRS LTD 01256 768 888				
European Inc	259.40	277.20	-1.60	0.42
-do- Accum	274.40	293.30	-1.70	0.42
Japan Inc	105.80	112.90	+5.20	..
Nth American Inc	123.00	131.60	+5.40	0.31
Worldwide Inc	169.18	180.50	+4.80	0.39
Hong Kong Inc	153.20	164.40	-10.20	1.56
Swiss Equities Inc	84.54	90.75	+0.23	0.11
Wwide Bond Inc	67.25	71.13	+1.25	4.94
Emerging Asia Inc	206.40	224.20†	-8.90	0.14
-do- Accum	207.20	225.10	-9.10	0.14
UK Money Mkt Inc	50.19	50.19†	+0.04	6.41
Thailand Inc	157.70	171.60†	-5.30	1.33
New Zealand Inc	96.95	104.00	+1.80	1.80
Intl Mngd PEP Inc	66.49	71.34	+0.97	1.42
Latin Am Crop Inc	57.38	62.16	+3.55	0.31
UK All Sh Idx Inc	66.01	70.79	+0.82	2.43
Broker Unit Trusts				
Global Trustees	84.83	90.51	+2.58	
Global Portfolio	75.58	80.63	+3.10	
Global Opps	67.56	72.26	+1.38	.
Marsh Global Gth	65.76	69.74	+0.95	
AAM Global Equity	55.79	59.13	+0.15	2.13
CAM Brit Gwth Inc	102.80	109.80	+1.00	
Temple Equity Inc	45.65	49.72	-0.04	2.27
Hartley Growth	93.93	99.93	-0.52	.
Intl Growth Inc	89.73	95.97	+0.94	1.01
IPS Portfolio Inc	89.02	95.21	+1.89	
Premax Portnrs Inc	70.21	75.09	+1.38	1.74
Roxborgh Skot Gth	75.91	81.19	+1.33	0.47
Slater Gwth	117.10	124.80	+0.80	
International Strat	79.46	84.98	+1.57	
UFC Ind-Act Gth	59.86	64.02	+1.12	..
Coverdale Topoui	52.06	58.40	+1.06	
Prem Equity Inc	112.40	123.10	+0.80	
Lowes Intl Growth	51.17	53.86	+2.31	.
PEARL UNIT TRUSTS LTD Dlg: 0800 626 577 Enq: 01733 470 470				
Equity	259.70	276.30†	-0.40	2.57
-do- Accum	561.30	597.10	-5.40	2.57
Growth	170.10	179.00	+1.60	2.82
Income	254.20	270.40	-2.00	3.71
Intl Equity	274.10	291.60	+8.00	0.73
-do- Accum	305.20	324.70	+8.90	0.73
UK Income	70.72	75.23	+0.47	3.20
UK Ind 25	87.15	92.71	+1.29	2.03
New Europe	87.65	93.24	-0.09	0.35
PERPETUAL UNIT TST MGMT 01491 417 000				
Intl Growth Inc	667.98	713.46	+25.98	0.48
-do- Accum	669.70	716.26	+26.08	0.48
Income	411.92	440.56	-4.50	3.08
Wwide Recovery	432.50	462.57	+15.27	0.46
Amer Growth Inc	279.67	299.12	+15.43	0.01
-do- Accum	279.67	299.12	-15.43	0.01
Intl Emerging Cos	264.23	282.60	+10.29	0.11
Far East Gth Inc	288.58	308.65†	+11.40	0.50
-do- Accum	289.89	310.05	+12.80	0.50
Euro Gwth Inc	168.04	179.73†	+3.30	0.25
-do- Accum	168.60	180.33	+3.45	0.25
UK Growth Inc	106.99	114.43	-2.30	2.61
-do- Accum	112.55	120.38	-2.42	2.61
High Income	109.56	117.20	+1.33	3.62
Jap Gwth Inc	217.75	232.16	+13.16	0.01
-do- Accum	217.75	232.16	+13.16	0.01
PEP Growth	135.34	144.75	+4.49	0.88
Asian Sk Mkts Inc	126.93	135.76	+6.27	0.48
-do- Accum	126.93	135.76	+6.27	0.48
Amer Smlr Co Inc	174.40	186.53†	+8.06	0.01
-do- Accum	174.40	186.53	+8.06	0.01
Global Bond	58.17	61.25	+0.80	5.78
Uk Smaller Cos Inc	94.98	101.58	+1.28	1.56
-do- Accum	99.94	106.89	+1.35	1.56
PILGRIM UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD 0191 201 3927				
American	120.86	128.57†	+4.30	
European	81.77	86.99	+1.17	...
Global	66.16	70.38	+1.79	.
Pacific	58.74	62.49†	+2.30	
UK Inc & Grth	71.31	75.86	+0.36	2.19
PORTFOLIO FUND MGMT LTD Enq: 0171 638 0808 Dlg: 01277 690 430				
Fund of Funds	178.71	189.11	+2.62	0.63
Emerg Mkts	44.14	46.71	-0.23	1.11
High Income #	53.69	56.82†	+0.14	5.72
For Premium see Rivers & Mercantile				
PRINCIPAL UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD 01732 740 700				
Principal Tst	156.28	166.26	+1.17	1.91
PROLIFIC UNIT TST MGRS LTD Enquiries: 0171 280 3700 Dealing: 0800 282 443				
American Income	111.00	118.10	+3.40	3.27
Conv & Gilt	114.70	122.00†	+0.80	6.15
European Income	79.12	84.17†	-1.07	3.09
Extra Income	169.80	180.70†	+1.40	4.82
-do- Accum	213.80	227.40	+1.86	4.82
Far East	397.20	422.60	+18.20	0.30
-do- Accum	405.60	431.40	-18.50	0.30
Global Income	28.12	29.91	-0.47	4.72
High Income	126.90	135.00†	+2.00	4.05
-do- Accum	156.80	166.80†	-2.50	4.05
International	207.30	220.60	+8.30	0.81
-do- Accum	214.60	228.30	+8.80	0.81
Pref & Fxd Int	44.07	46.88†	+0.70	6.94
Recovery	78.62	83.64	+2.23	2.64

Fund	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Special Sits	119.40	127.00†	-0.70	1.67
-do- Accum	131.40	139.90	-0.70	1.67
Technology	653.85	695.50	-49.60	..
UK Blue Chip	78.62	83.64	-1.00	3.07
-do- Accum	89.73	95.46	-1.14	3.07
PROVIDENT MUTUAL UT MGRS LTD 0171 588 3965				
Equity Gth	217.50	231.40	+1.20	1.56
European Gth	116.30	123.50	+0.40	0.93
Income & Gth #	148.80	158.30	+0.30	3.23
Japan Gth	116.30	123.70	+4.40	..
Nth Amer Gth	193.50	205.80	+8.80	0.09
Overseas Gth	112.40	119.60	+3.50	0.57
PRUDENTIAL UNIT TRUSTS LTD 0181 478 3377 Client Enq: 0171 911 4480				
Managed Tst	41.95	43.47	+0.92	1.70
Cash Reserve Inc	101.98	101.98†	+0.09	5.61
Cash Reserve Acc	115.00	115.57†	+0.10	5.81
Ded Trust Inc	103.67	107.42†	+1.49	6.02
Ded Trust Acc	111.52	115.56†	+1.61	6.02
Global Growth	99.96	106.33	+2.06	1.39
Equity Inc	87.66	93.25†	+0.70	3.07
Equity	816.40	868.51†	+8.22	2.18
European	236.35	246.99†	+1.94	0.74
High Income	92.76	98.68	+1.18	4.84
Intl Gth	209.80	223.26	+8.34	0.65
Intl Sm Co	88.66	94.31	+3.04	0.46
Japanese	219.72	227.68	+12.05	
Nth Amer	217.41	229.35†	+8.13	1.69
Pacific Mkts	114.64	118.79	+6.83	0.28
Premier Inc	48.30	51.31†	+0.32	6.51
Sm Cos	100.65	107.07†	+0.33	1.42
Spec Sits	119.65	127.32	+0.98	2.54
UK Growth	137.96	146.76	+1.41	2.17
RELIANCE UNIT MGRS LTD 01892 510 033				
British Life	326.33	346.10	+3.80	3.06
RIVER & MERCANTILE INV FUNDS LTD 0171 405 3240				
Monthly Income	68.02	71.59	-0.82	2.82
Growth Income	72.46	78.27	-0.68	2.27
ROTHSCHILD FUND MANAGEMENT Dealers: 0171 623 1000				
FA America (Inc)	631.47	671.55	+28.94	0.61
FA America (Acc)	738.51	785.35	+33.83	0.61
FA UK Equity Inc	169.91	181.35†	-1.27	3.44
FA Japan	292.71	328.79	+13.85	..
FA Major UK Cos	104.90	111.79†	+0.28	2.22
FA Small UK Cos	335.43	356.55	-1.85	1.31
FA European	356.21	378.81†	+1.83	0.75
FA Amer Smlr Cos	55.73	60.85	+2.29	0.12
FA Asia	51.36	55.41	+3.23	0.12
FA Jap Smlr Cos	43.73	46.09	+2.30	
RAM Personal Pension				
UK Major Cos	109.71	115.48	+1.40	
UK Small Cos	95.67	100.91	-0.43	
UK Income	108.57	114.28	+0.84	
America	127.25	133.94	+5.81	..
Japanese	55.79	58.72	+3.04	
European	114.92	120.96	+0.63	
Gilt	95.73	101.81	+0.80	
Deposit	87.02	91.60	+0.09	
Managed	109.58	114.81	+1.67	.
RAM FSAVC Scheme				
UK Major Cos	106.71	112.32	+1.36	
UK Smaller Cos	93.51	98.42	-0.42	..
UK Income	105.79	111.35	+0.88	
America	123.71	130.21	+5.65	..
Japanese	54.24	57.09	+2.97	
European	111.63	117.71	+0.61	..
Gilt	94.96	99.95	+0.78	
Deposit	83.12	87.43	+0.09	
Managed	102.01	107.37	+1.37	
ROYAL LIFE FD MGMT LTD Prices: 01733 282 828 Gen Enq: 01733 390 000				
United States	105.60	112.70	+4.20	0.28
Pacific Basin	77.67	83.48	+3.86	0.27
High Inc Dist	146.80	156.70	+1.70	4.34
Prf Lfe Int Cnv	62.24	65.98	+1.10	4.08
Prf Life Intl Gwth	74.68	79.75	+2.80	0.13
Prf Life Intl Opps	68.39	72.75	+2.12	
UK Emerging Cos	139.40	150.70	+1.90	1.03
UK Index Trckg	182.70	194.60	+0.90	3.17
European	148.43	159.40†	+0.90	...
Managed	167.10	179.60	+3.60	0.66
ROYAL LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD 01206 764 400				
American Growth	176.60	187.80	+8.02	1.71
European Growth	122.30	129.40	+1.60	2.54
Far East Growth	133.00	146.90	+6.80	2.06
Japan Growth	132.90	141.20†	+5.40	.
Special Sits	225.90	240.30	+3.00	1.24
UK Growth	88.55	94.20	+1.43	2.07
Trustee General	265.60	282.60†	+8.00	1.05
ST JAMES'S PLACE UT GROUP LTD 0141 307 6500				
Far East Inc	167.20	176.90	-11.20	0.31
Gt Euro Prog Inc	351.70	372.20	-0.80	0.18
-do- Accum	549.50	581.50	+1.70	0.18
Growth Inc	142.90	151.20	+1.70	0.34
-do- Accum	146.50	155.00	-1.70	0.34
International Inc	367.70	389.10	+5.90	0.30
-do- Accum	506.90	536.40	-8.10	0.30
Nth Am & Intl Inc	383.00	405.30	-15.20	0.35
UK Gen Prog Inc	240.30	254.30	+2.90	1.14
-do- Accum	270.40	286.10	+3.29	1.14
UK High Inc Inc	141.40	149.60	+0.60	3.64
SARASIN INTL INVEST SERVICES LTD 0171 390 0572				
American Gwth	77.91	82.88†	+3.20	..
Asian Gwth	115.84	123.23	+7.79	0.75
European Gwth	78.06	83.04	+0.52	1.80
Global Bd	62.50	65.88	+1.09	5.00
Global Eq	64.60	68.72	+1.49	0.50
Japan Sm Cos	58.18	61.89	+3.09	
UK Gwth	76.08	80.91	+0.26	
SAVE & PROSPER GROUP 01708 766 966				
Amer Inc & Gwth #	85.14	90.57†	+3.02	3.32
Amer Smlr Cos	141.70	150.70	+9.10	.
Asian Smaller Cos	42.30	45.00	+1.90	
Capital Portfolio	141.60	150.60	+3.20	1.72
Cash	130.50	130.50	+0.10	6.13
China Dragon	58.82	62.57	+3.66	1.50
Commodity	128.70	136.90	+2.00	
Eastern Discovery	101.10	107.60	+5.10	
Emerging Mkts	35.71	37.99	+1.12	0.04
Energy Inc	133.00	141.50	+0.89	0.15
European Gwth	203.60	216.60†	+1.50	0.21
Euro Inc & Gwth #	84.37	89.65		3.02
Euro Smlr Cos	59.93	63.76†	+0.78	0.08
Extra Income #	55.37	57.01†	+0.47	5.48
Financial Secs	257.00	273.40†	+6.00	1.22
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc #	49.70	52.48	+0.29	8.83
Gold & Exploration	78.39	83.28	-1.89	
High Return #	249.00	264.90	+5.00	3.89
High Yield #	249.20	265.10	+4.70	3.61
Income #	129.50	137.80	+2.80	4.38
Intl Bond	175.80	185.80	+2.90	5.44
ITU	222.30	236.50	+2.50	0.82
Japan Growth	173.80	184.70	+9.70	
Japan Smaller	173.60	184.70	+7.90	
Korea	64.81	68.95†	-0.55	
Masterfund	59.25	63.03†	+1.10	0.95
Scotbits	388.30	413.00	-8.40	0.98
Scotshares #	330.20	351.38†	+6.90	1.81
Scotyields #	265.90	282.90	+5.60	3.28
Select Intl	149.40	158.90	+5.10	0.15
Smaller Cos Inc #	249.50	265.40	-0.50	4.52
SE Asia	52.61	55.97	+3.97	0.22
Special Situation	146.60	156.00	+2.90	1.76
UK Equity #	275.70	293.30	+3.30	2.38
UK Growth	74.00	78.72	+0.67	1.78
UK & O'seas	183.80	195.50	+2.50	1.22
UK Smlr Cos Gwth	53.16	56.55	+0.34	1.53
US Growth	189.20	201.30	+7.90	0.13
Univ Growth	150.00	159.60	+4.90	0.39
SCHRODER UNIT TRUSTS LTD Clnt: 0800 526 535 Brkr: 0800 526 540				
Retail Funds				
American	311.75	330.43†	+10.95	0.96
-do- Accum	343.01	363.57†	+12.06	0.96
European Gwth	83.37	88.45	-0.16	0.89
Euro Smlr Cos	89.48	95.36	+0.18	0.42
Far Eastern Gth	100.48	107.17	+4.76	
-do- Accum	102.29	109.11	+4.84	.
Gilt & Fixed Int #	53.05	55.93	+0.58	7.39
Global Bond #	54.51	56.33	+0.97	6.91
-do- Accum #	61.31	63.36	+1.09	6.91
Global Emer Mkts	51.38	54.80	+2.12	
-do- Accum	51.43	54.85	+2.12	
Income #	386.07	411.80	+2.27	4.93
-do- Accum #	£12.55	£13.39	+7.38	4.93
Japan Smlr Cos	445.53	475.23	+19.08	
-do- Accum	446.42	476.18	-19.12	.
Japan Enterprise	71.24	75.98	+5.29	
Pacific Gwth	141.11	150.51	+7.44	0.48
-do- Accum	145.66	155.37	+7.88	0.48
Portfolio	89.57	95.54	+1.58	1.94
-do- Accum	97.94	104.46	+1.70	1.94
Seoul	50.48	53.84	+0.84	
-do- Accum	50.48	53.84	+0.84	
Smaller Cos	249.17	265.78	+0.03	1.19
Tokyo	125.96	134.35	+6.96	
-do- Accum	127.23	135.71	+7.04	
UK Enterprise	305.58	325.93	+0.99	2.07
-do- Accum	369.26	393.87	+1.19	2.07
UK Equity	273.87	292.12	+2.10	2.53
-do- Accum	539.36	575.32	+4.15	2.53
US Smlr Cos	206.12	219.86†	+6.14	..
-do- Accum	206.12	219.86†	+6.14	
Institutional Funds				
European	266.27	276.44	+0.04	1.33
-do- Accum	297.89	309.26	+0.05	1.33
Euro Smlr Cos	30.56	31.72	+0.05	1.60
-do- Accum	32.72	34.07	+0.05	1.60
Global Equity Inc	86.05	89.63†	+3.21	1.09
Japan Smlr Cos	37.30	38.85	+1.62	0.15
-do- Accum	37.62	39.18	+1.63	0.15
Mngd Balanced	211.00	219.79†	+2.95	2.80
-do- Accum	242.67	252.78†	+3.39	2.80
Overseas Equity	210.69	219.46	+6.81	1.08
-do- Accum	218.86	227.96	+7.07	1.08
Oseas Smlr Cos	133.29	138.84	+3.54	0.97
-do- Accum	139.73	145.55	+3.71	0.97
Pacific	259.91	270.73†	+14.76	1.37
-do- Accum	287.19	299.15†	+16.38	1.37
Recovery	£20.79	£21.65	+20.02	2.98
-do- Accum	£22.33	£23.27	+21.51	2.98
UK Index	171.87	179.03	+2.02	3.37
-do- Accum	216.23	225.23	+2.54	3.37
UK Small Cos	122.41	127.51	+0.30	2.75
-do- Accum	132.82	138.35	+0.33	2.75
US Smlr Cos	56.87	61.32†	+2.33	0.43
-do- Accum	60.22	62.72†	+2.38	0.43
SCOTTISH AMICABLE UT MGRS LTD 0141 204 2200				
Equity Income	57.11	60.39	+0.64	2.66
Equity Trust	70.55	74.61	-0.97	2.99
Equity Strategy	82.49	87.23	+1.22	1.62
European Opps	97.84	103.47	+0.11	0.40
UK Smaller Cos	72.22	76.37	+0.31	1.23
Maximum Inc	99.52	102.10	+0.09	6.78
Japanese	80.41	85.03	+5.04	
Asia Pacific	126.50	133.77	+6.10	1.49
American	123.91	131.04	+4.42	0.82
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE FD MGRS LTD 0800 454 422				
Cash	32.07	32.07	+0.02	6.176
UK General Inc	58.25	62.12	+0.34	2.60
-do- Accum	76.56	81.64	+0.45	2.60
Intl Income	284.70	303.60†	+0.20	1.56
-do- Accum	496.20	529.20†	+14.30	1.56
European	90.18	95.45	+1.04	1.80
Japan	69.61	73.77†	+3.83	0.30
American	85.82	90.93	+2.72	1.81
Far East	87.74	93.59	+4.79	1.47
Ethical Inc	33.75	36.10	+0.31	2.02
UK Blue Chip Inc	38.02	40.63	+0.43	3.04
High Inc Inc	38.88	41.47†	+0.31	3.52
UK Global Inc	44.66	47.72	+0.74	1.61
Wwide Tact	77.25	82.62	+2.51	1.19
Europe 2000 Tact	88.13	93.81	+0.62	1.43
Technology	142.01	151.32†	+7.69	1.02
SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS 0131 225 2211				
UK Equity	438.50	467.70	+5.30	2.79
American	326.10	346.10	+14.20	0.52
Pacific	407.90	436.30	+23.20	0.41
European	596.70	638.20	+7.80	1.31
Worldwide	96.87	103.60	+3.30	0.53
SCOTTISH MUTUAL INV MGRS LTD 0141 248 6100				
UK Equity Inc	303.20	322.60†	-0.70	2.19
-do- Accum	392.40	417.50†	+4.10	2.19
UK Sr Co Eq Inc	232.40	247.30†	-3.30	1.84
-do- Accum	284.30	302.50†	+6.40	1.84
Select Opplty Inc	78.83	84.32	-0.53	1.94
Income Plus Inc	80.09	85.21	+0.54	3.48
European Inc	384.00	408.60	-3.80	1.23
-do- Accum	437.50	465.50	-4.30	1.23
Far Eastern Inc	178.60	190.10	+9.50	0.88
-do- Accum	205.40	218.60	+11.00	0.88
Japanese Inc	63.27	67.31	+3.61	
Nth American Inc	296.70	315.70	+14.20	0.28
-do- Accum	328.00	349.00	+15.70	0.28

Fund	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Intl Growth Inc	223.20	237.50†	+8.70	0.43
Wwide Venture Inc	88.17	93.80	+3.83	0.75
SCOTTISH WIDOWS' FUND MGMT 0131 668 3724				
Equity Inc	410.30	437.50	+5.90	2.41
-do- Accum	616.20	657.20	+8.90	2.41
UK High Inc	199.70	211.90	+2.50	3.37
-do- Accum	297.80	317.50	+3.80	3.37
Europe Inc	431.20	459.80	+6.50	0.27
Nth Amer Inc	279.10	297.70	+9.70	.
Global Inc	242.18	258.10	+7.80	0.23
Global Acc	250.70	278.10	+8.40	0.23
UK Spec Sits Inc	114.00	121.50	-2.30	2.63
South East Asia	223.60	238.90	+7.80	0.43
Cash Trust Inc	99.96	99.96	-2.24	5.99
UK Smlr Cos Inc	112.30	119.70	+0.40	2.63
-do- Accum	116.30	123.90	+0.58	2.63
Intl Bond Inc	100.20	106.40	+2.30	5.56
SEMPER EADEM FUND MGMT LTD Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 010				
Sector Recovery	152.30	160.00	+2.90	4.17
SHARP (ALBERT E) Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 010				
European	144.70	152.30	+1.70	0.94
Nth American	131.80	138.70	+5.70	0.17
Intl Bond & Conv	127.80	134.50†	+1.20	8.62
Pooled Pension (C)	214.70	230.90†	+3.20	2.10
Smaller Cos	94.07	99.02†	+0.68	1.03
UK General	150.70	158.67†	-1.70	2.47
Far Eastern	97.38	102.50	+3.70	..
SINGER & FRIEDLANDER INVESTMENT FUNDS LTD. 0171 626 6226				
Amer Gth Fund ‡	123.86	...	-5.12	..
Aztec ‡	64.47	...	-3.56	..
European ‡	145.26	...	+2.73	0.39
Global Bond ‡	86.96	...	+1.91	9.15
Investment Trust ‡	100.56	...	+0.67	2.06
Preferred Income ‡	102.20	...	-0.52	5.88
Samurai ‡	56.06	...	-2.54	.
Sterling Reserve ‡	100.79	...	+0.12	6.06
UK Growth ‡	105.28	...	-0.10	2.38
Tai Pan ‡	180.86	...	+4.67	...
UK Emerg Leaders ‡	102.93	...	+8.44	2.89
UK Equity Inc ‡	108.70	...	+0.21	5.54
Glob Cvrn PEP	70.61	75.11	+1.87	1.29
Pref Inc PEP #	102.10	108.09	+1.40	5.10
Inv Trust PEP	51.93	55.24	+0.30	.
SMITH & WILLIAMSON UT MGRS 0171 637 5377				
American	404.60	429.10	+15.80	.
Canadian	72.02	76.70	+1.47	0.62
Capital	138.00	147.80	+2.60	1.71
Cash	100.97	100.97	+0.09	6.28
European	147.60	156.10†	+2.10	0.67
Far Eastern	158.00	167.20	+8.96	..
Growth	151.90	160.70	+3.70	1.25
Income	137.50	145.40	+0.80	4.97
Magnum	149.70	159.30	+2.90	1.71
Small Secs	454.70	481.10	+7.90	0.52
Thoroughbred	172.20	184.80	-3.59	1.42
SOVEREIGN UNIT TST MGRS LTD 01202 298 422				
Credit Prmce	55.96	59.85	+0.38	7.00
Ethical	70.90	76.24	+2.85	0.50
European Growth	77.82	82.78	+0.83	1.60
Income	57.92	62.27†	+0.60	4.39
Intl Growth	105.30	112.30	+3.80	1.60
Managed	88.72	94.63	+1.08	2.39
UK Growth	72.44	77.88	+2.14	1.50
STANDARD LIFE UNIT TRUSTS 0800 393 777				
Standard Life Fund Mngmt Ltd				
Global Advtg Inc	44.88	44.91	+0.89	1.66
Global Advtg Acc	48.20	48.45	+0.87	1.58
Income Advtg Inc	34.82	35.00	-0.14	3.25
Income Advtg Acc	39.66	39.86	+0.55	3.25
UK Equity Gth Acc	82.14	87.07	+0.68	1.01
Premier Inc Inc	49.16	51.75	-0.55	7.58
Premier Inc Acc	50.13	52.77	+0.47	7.58
Managed Acc	58.19	61.69	+1.08	1.43
UK Eq Hi Inc Inc	40.04	42.45	+0.41	3.73
UK Eq Hi Inc Acc	51.30	54.38	-0.52	3.73
Standard Life Tst Mngmt Ltd				
UK Equity Gen Acc	71.90	78.40	+0.99	2.69
UK Equity Gen Inc	52.39	55.67	+0.72	2.08
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	32.07	33.92	-0.28	6.01
Oseas Lrg Co Acc	351.70	381.60	+11.00	1.63
Nth American Acc	55.63	59.11	+2.01	
Pacific Basin	43.85	46.60	+1.75	0.92
European Acc	56.83	60.39	-0.22	1.04
Japan Acc	27.82	29.56	+0.98	.
STATE STREET UT MGMT LTD 0171 344 7000				
Global A (US$)	4.183	4.435	+0.04	1.82
US Eqts (US$)	2.981	3.164	+0.04	1.81
Far East Eqts (yen)	259.20	265.80	+5.90	
FT Europe	144.40	153.40	+1.79	1.27
FT N Amer (US$)	2.389	2.425	+0.05	0.45
FT Japan (yen)	212.40	225.69	+2.08	..
FT Asia Exjap (US$)	2.576	2.736	-0.04	0.90
STEWART IVORY UNIT TST MGRS LTD 0131 226 3271				
American	467.80	496.40†	+21.80	..
British #	1170.00	1237.90	+10.30	3.12
Emrging Mkts	133.50	142.50	+3.30	0.45
European	578.20	616.70	-2.30	0.52
Japan	142.00	150.80	+8.30	
New Pacific	399.50	424.90	+13.40	1.54
-do- Accum	425.30	452.90	+14.70	1.54
Inv Trust Acc	279.00	295.70	+5.90	0.82
Mngd Equity	192.40	203.60	+3.79	1.63
Mngd Cash	96.12	98.12	+0.09	6.22
SUN ALLIANCE UNIT TST MGMT LTD Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 690 389				
Equity	965.80	1033.00	-15.60	2.08
North America	167.80	179.50	-8.50	0.04
Far East	157.20	168.10	+17.00	0.24
Wwide Bond	61.79	65.57	+1.66	5.03
European	115.50	123.50	-1.30	1.44
Equity Income #	100.80	107.80†	-1.50	4.60
Portfolio	98.83	105.70	-2.50	1.96
UK Leading Cos	71.04	75.70	-1.11	3.09
Broker Trusts				
Ibrd Equity	71.01	75.95	+1.35	..
SUN LIFE OF CANADA UT MGRS LTD 0800 525 725				
Assures UT	22.87	24.33†	+1.18	1.06
European	44.32	47.15†	-0.06	0.82
High Income	34.55	36.76	+0.22	4.03
Japan	37.10	39.47†	+2.17	0.61
Managed Assets	137.16	146.70	+2.08	2.52
North American	39.44	41.96†	+1.71	0.50
Smlr Co's Inc	32.31	34.38	-0.37	2.26
Smlr Co's Acc	34.93	37.16†	-0.40	2.26
UK Growth Inc	61.03	64.93	+0.63	2.79
UK Growth Acc	67.05	71.34†	+0.70	2.76
UK Income	43.65	46.69†	-0.36	3.29
Worldwide Grth	38.69	41.39†	+1.14	0.90
Confederation				
Canadian Exmpt	65.40	67.43	+1.03	1.87
European Exmpt	91.91	94.76	+0.40	1.87
Pacific Exmpt	62.21	64.14†	+3.28	1.18
US Exmpt	92.92	95.80	+4.85	1.43
SUN LIFE TRUST MGMT LTD Admin & Enq: 0171 606 6044 Dlg: 0171 606 6010				
Discretionary	53.79	57.22	+1.17	
Cap Protector Inc	43.64	46.43	+0.25	2.79
UK Income Inc	56.62	60.23	+0.92	3.20
Mngd Extra Inc Inc #	34.79	37.01	-0.17	5.19
Mngd High Yld Inc	85.01	90.44†	+0.82	4.40
Mngd Inc/Gth Inc	80.72	85.87†	+0.71	3.30
UK Smaller Cos	37.26	39.64	+0.20	1.73
Pacific Gth Port	49.68	52.85	+2.76	0.68
TSB UNIT TRUSTS 01264 346 794				
American	268.59	284.22	+11.35	.
-do- Accum	295.84	313.06	+12.50	..
Brit Growth	111.75	118.25	+2.75	1.88
-do- Accum	136.95	144.92	+3.37	1.88
European	115.88	122.62	+0.78	
-do- Accum	123.33	130.51	+0.81	..
Extra Income	203.09	214.91	+1.79	3.72
-do- Accum	357.90	378.73	+3.17	3.72
Smaller Cos	79.41	84.03	-0.10	1.06
-do- Accum	90.25	95.51	-0.11	1.06
General	331.81	351.12	+8.14	2.23
-do- Accum	695.18	735.62	+17.06	2.23
Premier Income	51.62	53.77†	+0.30	6.71
-do- Accum	122.79	127.91†	+0.73	6.71
Income	351.26	371.71†	-4.48	3.61
-do- Accum	787.79	844.23†	+4.58	3.61
Pacific	419.75	444.18	+20.21	..
-do- Accum	441.06	466.73	+21.25	..
International	601.35	636.36†	+19.50	..
-do- Accum	792.31	838.42†	+25.68	...
Nat Resources	174.68	184.84	+6.73	.
Sictd Opps	123.20	130.37	+0.57	1.46
-do- Accum	159.33	168.60	+0.74	1.46
Environmental Inv	70.61	74.71	+0.74	1.43
Selector	68.93	72.94†	+0.67	1.63
-do- Accum	79.22	83.83†	+0.77	1.63
High Income	68.15	72.12	+0.57	4.20
-do- Accum	88.87	94.04	+0.75	4.20
Intl Income	63.90	67.62	+1.26	5.37
-do- Accum	81.83	86.60	+1.63	5.37
Selector Income	64.72	68.49†	+0.63	4.16
-do- Accum	79.14	83.75†	+0.77	4.16
TU FUND MANAGERS LIMITED 0181 667 1018				
British	373.37	393.02	+4.28	2.72
TEMPLETON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0131 469 4000				
Glob Growth Inc	225.03	240.68	+4.34	2.28
Glob Balncd Inc	188.57	201.67†	+2.58	3.56
Value Tst Inc	131.38	140.49†	+1.12	2.11
THORNTON UNIT MANAGERS LTD 0171 246 3000 Dealing: 0171 246 3001				
Discover Eur Bd	45.38	47.10	+0.29	8.78
European Growth	303.70	318.01	+1.84	0.40
Exempt	607.89	635.06†	+7.01	2.61
Global Em Mkts	79.89	83.65	+4.09	0.87
Japan Tst	84.84	88.83	+5.12	0.90
Little Dragons	91.61	95.92	+4.75	...
Nth Amer Gwth	280.06	293.25	+9.88	0.49
Oriental Income #	48.56	48.77	+2.89	2.27
Preference	128.71	134.77†	+1.44	8.71
Tiger	284.62	298.03	+15.90	..
UK Blue Chip	72.46	75.88	+1.21	1.74
UK Growth	590.45	618.27†	+6.68	2.05
UK High Yield #	109.51	114.67†	+1.13	4.38
UK Mid-Cap	276.67	289.70†	-0.42	2.15
UK Smlr Cos	115.68	121.04	+0.61	0.97
UK Smlr Cos Div #	88.00	92.14	+0.94	5.26
UNITED FRIENDLY UT TST MGMT LTD 01277 690 336				
UK Equity Income	106.87	113.69	+0.78	3.43
UK Equity Growth	95.02	101.08	+0.43	2.74
European	73.69	78.39	+0.41	1.49
Nth American	82.98	88.28†	+2.78	0.16
Far Eastern	75.12	79.92†	+3.27	0.56
Money	68.31	68.31	+0.06	5.27
Fixed Interest	77.37	82.31	+0.54	5.72
Index Linked Gilt	70.41	74.90	+0.24	1.27
VIRGIN DIRECT PFS LTD 0345 959595				
Income Trust	104.84	104.84	+0.62	5.86
UK Index Tracking @	121.08	121.08	+1.50	2.83
WAVERLEY UNIT TST MGMT LTD 0131 225 1551				
Australasian Gold	25.45	26.78	+1.12	...
Pacific Basin	44.17	46.49	+0.98	...
Global Bond (US$)	0.9124	0.9604	+0.01	..
Penny Share	43.74	46.04	+1.14	..
WHITTINGDALE UNIT TST MGMT LTD 0171 623 2444				
Challenger	99.53	102.28†	+1.20	2.98
Short Dtd Gilt	121.20	122.80	+0.70	.
US Govt Bd (US$)	0.7677	0.7776	+0.09	.
Gilt Income	52.81	54.95	+0.43	6.75
Gilt Growth	77.04	80.17	+0.65	.
Sterling Bond	49.83	51.66†	+0.31	7.00
WOOLWICH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0181 298 4000				
Intl Mngd	52.27	55.54	+0.80	1.63
UK Stockmarket	90.72	96.50	+0.78	2.53

Source: Finstat

* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return); † Ex dividend; ‡ Middle price; ... No significant data. # Periodic Charge deducted from capital. @ Exit Charge.

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Shares close at the best of day

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BANKS

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
2937½	2137½	ABN-AMRO	2925	- 3½	4.4	10.8
653½	413	Abbey Nat	650	+ 8	3.7	13.0
360	250	Allied Irish	359	+ 2	4.0	10.4
292	198	Aus New Z	292	+ 1	5.5	
4175	2591½	Bank Americat	4175	+ 12½	..	
285	191½	Bank Scotlandt	285	+ 13	2.7	12.6
812½	557½	Barclays	780	+ 5	3.6	10.8
485	288	Bk of Irelandt	476	+ 3	3.6	9.5
525	418	Cater Allen	443	- 10	8.6	6.6
4662½	2450	Citicorp	4587½	+ 106¼		
340½	216¼	Close Bros	320	+ 1	3.4	14.4
£162⅛	£129⅛	Commerzbk	£151⅞	+ 193⅛	3.6	
1375	993¾	Da Ichi Kan Y	1234¾	+ 18¾	0.4	..
3291⅛	2775	Deutsche Bk	3096⅞	- 3⅞	2.4	
881½	568¾	Espirito Santo	621½	+ 50	5.8	8.2
1611	1139¾	Fuji Bank Y	1373¾	+ 12	0.4	
490	395	Gerrard Natl	453	- 1	6.2	14.6
253	180	Hambrost	301		4.7	
908	589	HSBC	995	+ 3½	3.5	12.9
976	578	HSBC HK	976	+ 4½	3.6	12.7
365	228	Irish Perm	365	+ 2	3.3	8.4
483	353	Joseph (L)	463		5.1	25.6
145	85	King Shaxson	137	+ 1	8.2	10.6
887	530	Lloyds	866	+ 18	3.8	19.5
592	479	Nat Aust Bk	569	- 3	7.8	
687	454	Nat West	662	- 7	4.3	10.3
3000	2150	Ottoman Bank	2500		6.5	3.4
67	44	Rea Brothers	45		2.8	18.0
819	373½	Ryl Bk Scot	574	+ 17	3.8	12.7
1478	906¾	Schroders	1333		1.3	19.0
1180	823¾	Schroders N/V	1135		1.6	16.2
110	81	Singer & Fried	110		4.2	11.4
614	248	Stand Chart	614	+ 8	1.8	15.4
416	217	TSB	411	+ 3	3.5	14.4
121	70	Union	112		3.3	
£145⅛	9043¾	Wells Fargo	£138	- 100	2.2	
270	211	Westpac	267	- 1½	5.1	
295	200	Wintrust	268	- 7	5.3	15.3

BREWERIES

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
237	143	Ascot Hldgs	237	+ 4	..	0.5
701	487	Bass	683	- 7	4.0	18.5
449	239	Boddington	443	- 3	2.6	22.8
192	137	Burtonwd Brwrt	179	- 2	3.6	17.3
188	137	Eldridge P A	174		3.1	21.1
433	335	Fuller Sm 'A'	409		2.8	17.5
540	402	Greenalls Grp	535	- 2	3.2	15.5
668	468	Greene King	629	+ 1	3.2	16.8
297	240	Hardy Hanson	288		4.2	13.5
160	150	Heavitree	155		4.5	10.9
3425	3048	Holt J	3113		2.2	18.7
347	219	Mansfieldt	322		2.1	16.2
321	266	Marston Thmp	314	+ 1	2.9	15.6
543	391½	Morland	535	+ 4	2.8	
8½	6½	Paramountt	7½		3.8	11.6
605	307	Regent Inns	605		1.4	23.8
2200	1287½	SA Breweriest	2200		1.6	29.4
640	482	Scot & New	629	+ 2	3.6	16.9
337	230	Scot & New P/P	330			
309	211	Vaux Group	263	+ 1	4.7	14.6
640	449	Wetherspoon JDt	637		1.6	25.9
679	521	Whitbreadt	677	+ 8	3.8	16.7
585	483	Wolvhmptn D	551	+ 21	3.5	
310	186	Yates Bros	309		1.3	27.3
475	425	Young 'A't	438		4.3	17.7

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
150	125	Abbey	140		4.7	9.1
198	143	Allen	193	- 2	3.8	14.4
100	54¼	Amect	99		3.8	20.9
275	133	Andrews Sykes	273			
189¼	137¼	Ashteadt	168	- 1	1.8	16.6
105	37½	Avonside	39		10.6	6.2
38	23	Bailey (Ben) Con	25		5.2	6.1
41½	30¼	Barcon	35			
228	158	Barratt Devs	228	+ 2	4.1	14.1
170	122	Beazer Homes	169	+ 2½	4.4	12.1
268	180	Bellway	255		3.8	
37	15	Bellwinch	17			
479	315	Berkeley Gp	479		1.5	9.1
185	160	Bell Bros	177		2.0	14.9
245	190	Boot (Henry)	198		3.9	6.2
124	81	Brandon Hire	90		4.5	9.3
40	17	Britannia Grp	25		3.2	15.9
160	36	Br Bldg & Eng	40		8.0	4.9
134	93	Bryant	103		25.0	5.5
121	93	CALA	111		6.1	9.4
38	16	Campbll & Arm	21	+ 3	3.6	10.7
64	49	Clarke T	49			18.7
242½	67	Costain	74		10.4	17.6
110	53	Countryside	75			
81	43	Crest Nicholson	65		7.0	10.7
98	70	Cussins	81	+ 1	3.8	9.1
293	165	Eve Group	195	+ 2	5.9	7.1
29	13	Galliford	19		7.1	10.5
863	738	Gleeson (MJ)t	738		6.6	38.6
86	61	Graan (Ernst)t	61		2.5	
273	178	Havelock Europ	272	- 1	10.5	26.6
158	115	Hewden-Stuart	137	- 1	1.5	22.9
83	73	Higgs & Hill	93		2.6	14.6
22	14	Howard Hldgs	15		3.4	79.0
29½	8¼	Jarvis	23¼		6.7	17.5
137	98	Keller	133			
255	185	Laing (J)	255		3.6	12.9
103	82	Laing 6.4% Cv Pf	103		4.4	31.5
51	12	Lovell (YJ)	25½		7.8	
210	176	Maunders (J)	186		4.9	2.6
181	104	McAlpine (A)	134		3.8	9.9
70	48	McCarthy & S	68	+ 3	5.6	15.3
79	51	Morgan Sindall	79	+ 4	3.8	
121	116	Morrison Cons	127		1.4	
106	53	Mowlem (J)	60		3.1	11.8
216	162	Persimmon	181		4.2	29.9
114¼	76¼	Pochins	100		6.6	13.5
126	94	Prowting†	112		2.0	12.2
53	13	Raine Ind	17		4.2	14.9
58	45	Secure Retire	49		3.7	
129	93	Redrow	126		2.6	9.3
368	345	Sherill Hldgs	345		3.1	11.7
112½	78	Shorco	77		2.3	12.6
368	258	Spandex	353		6.5	11.8
176	142	Tay Homes	149		1.0	22.4
130	99	Taylor Woodrw	115	+ 2½	5.9	10.2
568	415	Tilbury Dougls	443		2.4	21.9
59½	28	Torex Hire	32		8.3	15.1
23	8	Trencherwood	10		5.1	13.7
20	9	Try Group	9			4.1
109	76	Vibroplant	76		6.9	12.6
115	93	Wainhomes	105		8.8	5.6
60	37	Ward Hldgs	46		5.4	9.6
190	123	Westburyt	183		4.1	10.3
5½	2¼	Wiggins	3		4.0	13.6
174	124	Wilson (C)	152			20.6
372	308	Wilson Bowdn	347		3.7	11.3
138	97	Wimpey G	130	- 1	5.3	18.9

BUILDING MATERIALS

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
14	7½	Aldighton	13		1.0	
445	311¼	Alumasc	420		2.2	18.1
342	267½	BPB Ind	338	+ 1	3.2	14.6
133	94	Baggeridge Brk	111	+ 1	3.5	10.5
36	22½	Bardont	29¼	- ¼	8.3	19.0
76	36	Blockleys	55			
939	255	Blue Circle	332	+ 3	4.5	15.0
89	72	Breedon PLC	78		7.7	10.8
136	108	Br Dredging†	108		6.5	14.1
485	338	CRH	459		2.3	17.2
46	38	Calderbread Rby	38		3.3	
270	143	Cape	146		9.4	11.3
273	174	Caradon	194	- 3	6.1	10.0
134½	89½	Caradon pft	105½		8.5	
55	18	Chieftain Gp	19	- 1	13.2	
198	105	Dyson (J&J)	185		2.3	15.3
90	63	Dyson 'A'	83		6.0	6.9
98¼	56¼	Eclipse Blinds				
315	220	Epwin	239		4.7	12.9
104¼	73	Flare	100	+ 3		
99	85	Gibbs & Dandy	93		4.3	
198	160	Graham Grp	198		3.4	17.3
389	312	Halstead (J)t	389		2.7	17.1
325	254	Hepworth†	312		5.9	14.4
85	39	Hewetson	41		7.8	8.5
269	302¼	Heywd Wms	229		7.5	11.8
85	63	Ibstock†	67		3.3	11.0
398	352	Johnston†	335		3.9	7.8
108	84	Litteshall	86		7.0	10.3
139¼	105	Marley	115	+ 2	5.1	10.1
160	123	Marshalls	145		4.4	10.3
393	289	Meyer Int	368	- 4	3.8	14.4
178	126	Newman Tnks	126	- 1	6.8	11.3
108	71	Norcros	77			
22	12	Phoenix Timber	17			18.2
207	136¼	Pilkington▼	192	- 1	3.0	15.2
177	122	Polypipe	165		2.0	15.4
1119	848¼	RMC Gp▼	1053	+ 15	2.7	14.3
18	3	Rasses	5			
470	322	Redland†	380	- 1	5.5	11.6
122	91¼	Rosiet	98	- 1	5.5	10.3
176½	128	Ruberoid	145		5.3	11.7
125	100	Rugby Group	107		4.2	13.8
113	88	Russell (A)	109		3.0	14.9
352	205	SIG	218		3.6	12.0
19	11	SMP	13		1.9	
180	156	Sharpe & Fisher	157		4.0	12.5
43	16	Spring Ram	20	+ 1½	3.1	
130	80	Tarmac†	95	- 1	7.2	14.4
180	117	Tilnis	117		4.9	8.1
348	265	Travis Perkins	342		3.3	14.3
36	24	Tudort	30		3.1	17.8
68	33	Waterhouse	41			
136	83	Wicks†	121		2.0	22.6
455	324	Wolseley	449	- 5	2.8	14.9

BUSINESS SERVICES

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
2	0½	Anglo Utd	0¾	- ¼		
110	57	App Holo	85	+ 3		
7¾	5¼	Bailey (CH)	6¼			
59	36	Black Arrowt	37	+ 1	10.5	6.5
88	60	Br Bloodstock	88			28.4
6	3	Caird Gp	3¾			
9¼	4½	Chemex	6¼	+ ¼	2.0	19.5
161	135	Cosalt	155		7.3	
277	215	Filofax	260	+ 2	1.4	17.8
43	24	Headway	32	- 1		29.1
436	248	Hozelock	416	+ 6	2.3	18.8
168	123	Leigh	125	- 2	7.8	13.0
231	102	Nobo Gp	139		5.8	9.2
265	151	Photo-Met	162		3.9	14.2
68	53	Plant & Gent	56		5.8	8.3
11	0¾	Rodime	1¼			
104	73	Shanks & McEwan	99	- 1	4.3	20.6
213	160	Sinclair (Wm)	188	+ 2	5.1	
414	241	Waste Mgt Inf	330	+ 6		12.5
148	73	Waste Recyg	127	+ 3	1.2	27.5

CHEMICALS

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
198	146	Albright & Wil	157	- ½	4.6	16.6
137	109	Allied Colloids	128	+ ½	2.5	18.1
345	195	Amber Indt	208		3.4	13.6
71	47	Amberley Gp	70		2.3	20.1
£147¼	£120¾	BASF DM	£144¼	+ 103¼	3.1	
906	683	BOCt	887	+ 7	3.8	17.1
303	235	BTP	254		3.4	14.0
£171¼	£121¼	Bayer DM50	£169¼	- 12¼	3.5	
165	103	Blagden	150			
119	75	Brent Chems	75		5.3	20.5
278	200	Br Vita	204	- 1	4.8	13.0
239	184	Canning (W)†	233		4.2	15.0
489¼	352	Courtaulds	397	+ 1	4.9	17.9
387½	310	Croda†	316	- 17	3.8	13.8
233	125	Doeflex	214		3.4	13.9
282	234	Ellis & Everard	255		4.1	14.9
107	55	Euro Colour	88	- 5	2.7	21.3
224	114	Gibbon	214		3.6	17.0
145	85	Hickson	90		5.8	8.6
£170¼	£123¼	Hoechst	£170¼	+ 305¼	3.0	
221½	172	Holliday Chem	173		3.6	12.3
849½	660	ICI	763	+ 5	4.7	14.8
360	186¼	Inspec	331	- 1	1.8	23.1
159	97½	Kalon	107	+ 1	5.4	12.2
852	620	Laporte	787	+ 6	3.7	18.2
85	65	MTM	85		3.1	11.7
385	280	Manders	380		4.8	13.0
66	30	Metrotect	38		5.0	14.2
516	382¼	Montedison	399½	- 1½	5.1	17.8
426	290	Porvair	370		1.7	27.1
250	185	Scapat	218	- 1	3.6	15.5
34	16	Suscllin Speci	27		1.9	33.5
976¼	695¼	Takeda Chem	976¼	+ 1¼	0.8	12.9
256	195	Wellington Hdg	250		3.4	19.1
1058	778	Wolstnhlme R	993		2.8	16.9
374	270	Yorks Chem	274		3.9	13.4
340	235	Yule Catto	310		3.0	16.4

DISTRIBUTORS

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
107½	88¼	ABI Leist	94			
595	495	Adam & Harvey†	495	- 3	5.8	9.7
21	13½	Alexanders	13½		4.9	6.5
113	88	Appleyard	91	+ 1	8.5	22.2
4¼	3¼	Ass Br Eng	3½		8.2	9.8
623	518	BCS Group	566		2.1	28.5
38	31	Bandl	38		4.3	16.3
24½	15½	Bearing Power	18½			
28	18	Bogod 'A'	26		7.6	8.1
483	345	Brammer	435		3.4	9.2
21	10¼	Bridgend Grp	17		3.9	16.7
96	78	Brit Fmlogs	81		1.5	
270	215	Caffyns	253		4.9	12.3
88	54	Central Mtr	67		9.7	18.0
60	35	Cook (DC)	56½		5.1	18.2
330½	220	Cowie	279	+ 2	3.3	8.3
155	125	Dag Motors	128		4.2	12.1
598	503	Denmans D	503		7.0	10.6
501	408	Diploma	434		1.9	11.1
343	236	Electrocomponts†	343	- 1	4.3	
233	153	Eurodis Elec	232	+ 4	2.2	23.9
235	64	Eurodollar	73	+ 6	2.3	16.0
720	87	European Mtr	98		14.0	4.2
449	280	Evans Halshaw	283	+ 1	6.8	8.2
695	512	Farnell Elect†	684	+ 3	6.8	8.8
72	48	Fife Indmar	66		1.8	19.9
24½	15	Gardner	19		6.2	10.8
36½	16	Gleesonstwe	36½	+ 3½	5.4	8.4
109	61	Gowrings	86		1.0	
187	148	Hays (Philip)	186		3.3	14.3
201	142	Headlam	197	+ 1	4.8	12.9
354	258	Healys	500		2.7	17.3
137	81	Holders Tech	134		2.5	18.6
163	88	ICA Ind	150		5.6	25.5
430	226½	Inchcape†	235	- 2	1.4	16.4
66	53	Jacks (Wm)	60		8.0	21.3
187	142	Kwik-Fit	181		1.8	21.4
368½	264½	Lex Service	291	+ 2	3.2	15.5
195	146	Lookers	149		6.2	15.5
22	9	Malaya Grp	10½	- ½	6.4	8.2
9½	5	Middlesex	8½	+ ½	5.7	14.2
71	36	Midstates	38		0.7	19.5
534	330	Norbain	513	- 1		5.4
268	78	Northamber	232	- 2	1.2	17.6
155	136	PCT	137		0.9	20.2
282	225	Pendragon	273		7.0	9.8
166	123	Perry Grp	156		3.8	14.3
196	126	Quicks Group	140		6.1	11.8
198	160	REA	188		5.1	11.8
3¾	2¼	Reece	3		2.7	22.4
73	48	Ronson	52½			
6½	2¾	Ross Gp	3½		3.0	10.7
63½	37½	SEP Ind	58			
17½	8½	Saltire	10		2.5	19.7
74½	38	TLS	68			5.7
266	226	Time Products	254		3.4	11.6
275	151	Vardy (Reg)	275		4.6	14.7
325	240	Wholesale Ftgs	325	+ 2	2.6	17.5
80	57½	Wilshaw†	60	+ 2	4.5	20.3
89	56½	Wyko	85		1.7	14.3
104	68	Young (H)	103		1.8	
					4.4	15.8

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
175	123	Adwest	125½	+ ½	7.8	10.1
353	235	Anglogast	283		2.0	13.3
940	728½	Broken Hill	890		3.7	20.5
348	291	BTR	337	+ 2½	5.1	14.8
582	405	BATt	557½		5.1	12.7
270½	144	Berisford Intl	172		1.1	45.5
131	71	Bibby (J)t	115	- 2	8.2	
51	40½	Brierley Inv	49¼	- ¼	8.7	2.7
948	743	Charter	792	- 1	3.9	12.8
313	185	Cookson	308	- 1	3.0	19.4
153	100	Grampian Hdg	137	- 1	5.3	15.5
243¼	185	Hanson	185	- 10½	8.2	9.9
162½	135	Harrison Crsfld	145		7.8	15.4
373¼	200¾	Hutch Whamp	372¾	+ 2¾	2.1	19.8
584½	341¾	Jardine Math	403¾	+ 9½	4.0	8.0
37	26	Jourdan (T)	37		5.9	7.2
174	134	Lonrho	168	+ 1	3.3	23.2
172	113	McLeod Russelt	172	+ 4	4.7	
44	34	Porter Chadbn	42			14.3
601	447	Powell Duffryn	468	- 3	8.8	12.1
152	123	Ropner	148		7.0	10.2
178	120	Sime Darby	162	+ 1	2.9	14.8
230	164	Staveleyt	209	- 1	5.1	14.3
207	148	Suter	178		6.8	11.8
285	227	TI Group	270	+ 1	2.6	15.2
269	214	Tomkins	265	- 1	4.1	14.7
78	18½	Trafalgar H	24		5.2	
295	295	Unitaire	295		6.4	
400	315	Wardle Storeys	398		5.8	
300	241	Wassall	253	- 2	2.2	14.4
200	162	Whitecroft	188		3.0	14.0
350	298¼	Williams Hldg	325	- 7	5.3	15.1

ELECTRICITY

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
955	554	East Midlands	898	+ 5	4.0	12.2
978	535	Eastern Grp	974		3.6	13.0
990	548	London Elec	923		4.4	10.9
1038	621	Manweb	1029		3.9	14.0
988	563	Midlands	931		5.1	9.5
561	421½	National Powrt	464	+ 2	4.4	9.5
271	158½	Natl Power P/Pt	173	+ 1	4.3	9.8
989¼	632½	Northern Elec	934	- 6	4.7	8.8
477	313	Nthn Ireland	449		3.7	11.0
1202	811	Norweb	1025		3.5	10.8
608	457½	PowerGent	535		4.0	9.8
299	178½	PowerGen (P/P)t	221		3.9	11.8
379	303	Hydro-Elect	355	+ 1	4.9	10.3
385½	306	Scottish Power	374	- 2	4.8	10.9
652	304	Seeboard	640	+ 5	2.8	13.7
1118	630	Sth Wales	1108	- 5	4.1	11.3
974	603	Sth Western	900		4.0	10.6
977	548	Southern Elec	919		4.9	10.0
955	599	Yorkshire Elec	898	- 1	4.2	11.3

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
524	282	Acal	524		1.8	21.0
159	77¼	Acorn Comp	148			
800	625	Admiral	798		1.3	20.9
261	195	Alba	252		2.6	17.2
295½	127½	Amstradt	263	- 1½		
41	30	Arlen	34	+ 1	2.2	11.8
131	77	Astec	121½		1.3	18.9
513	116	Azlan	497	+ 1	0.8	22.1
364	239	BICC†	285	+ 1	5.5	16.8
290	225	Bowes Hunter	235		5.4	12.6
523	430	Blick	448		3.5	15.3
435	284	Bowthorpe†	429	- 2	2.7	19.6
27	17½	Bulgin (AF) 'A'	26½		1.9	10.5
201	117	CML Micro	135		5.6	14.1
39	17	Chernel Hldgs	22		5.9	7.9
28½	19	Chloride	23¼	-	1.8	29.9
80	61	Clayhithe	75		5.1	18.7
208	105	Copymore	208		4.9	27.1
170	41½	Cray Elect	49	- 1	8.4	
648	462	Critchley	633		2.0	21.2
600	330	Dania Bs Sys	543		0.5	29.2
933	373	Delta†	374	- 14	5.2	12.9
565	385	Domino	403		3.1	13.2
72	61	Dowding Mills	64		5.4	17.0
2450	1465	Druck	2450		0.7	32.1
3340¾	2490¾	Electrolux 'B'	2800	+ 16¾	4.5	4.2
34½	26	Emess	31½		0.4	
1659¾	850	Ericsson 'B'	1543¾	- 6¼	2.8	10.7
104	64	Eurocopy	74	+ 1	3.6	14.8
575	370	Eurotherm	568		1.4	25.7
542	375	Fairey Group	523		1.7	22.0
514	185	Filtronic Com	484	+ 7	0.2	77.4
640	195	Forward Gp	605		1.4	25.9
100	40	Forward Tech	90	+ 8	3.5	12.6
341	269	GEC	312	- 5	4.6	14.9
171	122	Gooding	128		6.4	31.7
141	75	Ind Control	102		4.4	20.3
30	14	Intek	29½		3.2	37.4
320	230	Kenwood App	238		5.3	10.6
107	50	Kode	101			
49	28	LPA Ind	34			
330	266	MTL Inst	278	+ 6	6.2	24.2
298	254	Menvier-Sw	269		2.2	15.4
53¾	30¼	Microvitect	52½		2.4	17.7
420	231	Mitel	408	- 7	1.9	17.7
464	315	Oxford Inst	416	+ 1	1.8	18.4
136	51	Pacer Systemst	133	- 3	3.2	17.4
112	73	Pacifit	101		4.2	16.3
3821¼	1906¼	Philips Lmp nv	2531¼	- 88¾	2.0	10.0
349	217	Pilco	221		2.8	13.8
327	207	Pilco 'A' Vtg	211		2.9	13.2
153	116	Plasmec	143		3.9	11.4
153	96	Pressac†	137	- 1	3.2	
54	23	Prestwick	35	- 4		13.9
793	243	Psion	793	+ 25	0.5	33.5
31	15	Quadrant Grp	15		2.1	41.9
295	217	Racal Elect	253	+ 1	2.5	18.5
83	44	Radamect	81	- 2	3.4	17.9
449	301	Rainford	407			22.9
286	202½	Roxboro	280		2.4	13.8
20¾	5	Scantronic	9			
56	38	Silverstones	53		2.5	14.1
87	34	Soundtracs	34	- ½	9.2	9.8
226	163	Stoves	226		2.5	15.8
9¾	5	TDS Circuits	7			
3468¾	2488¾	TDK	3378¾	+ 88¾	1.0	
376	37	Tadpole Tech	79	+ 1		
160	57	Telemetrix	144	- 12	1.0	20.5
102	83	TGI	98	+ 1	3.4	12.3
1048	342	Telspec	940	+ 5	0.5	52.6
288	226	Thorpe FW	250		2.0	15.2
184	130	TLG	165		1.8	17.7
38	15	Total Systems	22			22.9
320	227	Tunstall	310		1.8	
587	350	Unitech	321	+ 5	1.8	19.2
13¾	8	Verity	12		1.0	19.1
465	388	Volex	430		5.7	15.1
79	32	Walsbourne	22			3.1
187	132	Whessoe	182	- 4	1.0	

ENGINEERING

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
347	167	AIM	320		1.8	
97	47½	APVt	81		4.8	
248	102	ASW	102	- 6	7.7	4.9
37	24	Aero Hamble	30			
150	42	Alvis	150	+ ½	1.0	
168	133	Ash & Lacy	167		4.3	11.5
643	538	Atlas Equip	643		3.3	22.5
153	118	Ayrshire Metal	130		5.2	7.5
102	79	BI Group	101	- 1	5.9	12.9
187	112½	Babcock	151	+ 1½	2.2	
165	122	BWIt	148		6.4	13.8
105	77	Baynes (Charles)	98		2.8	17.2
38½	23	Beauford	27		2.1	8.3
110	90	Billam	95		5.8	
421	308	Bodycote†	407	+ 5	1.8	20.8
81	33	Booth Inds	41	+ 3		
21	13½	Boxway	17		4.3	16.5
157½	122½	Bridport▼	128		4.0	18.1
835	418¾	Br Aerospace	833	+ 11	1.7	37.1
191	144	Br Steel†	165½	- 2½	6.4	4.8
14½	10½	Brooke Tool	13		1.0	30.1
49	32¼	Brunel	34	+ 1½	1.9	13.1
190	121	Bullough	122		6.2	11.8
123	71	Burnfield	108		3.5	15.6
334	236	Carclo Eng	318		1.9	17.2
194	150	Castings	188	- 2	2.4	15.1
168	145	Chamberlin Hill†	158		5.7	9.4
385	294	Chemring	380	+ 2	3.9	18.3
225	130	Clyde Blowers	205		3.7	
457	302	Cobhamt▼	457	+ 6	2.4	27.8
725	505	Cohen (A)	645		1.2	5.9
203	148	Concentric	173	+ 1	4.9	
243	210	Cook (Wm)	226		4.6	9.2
249	189½	David Brown	213		4.1	14.0
133	58	Dobson Park	130		5.0	26.8
417	330	EIS†	382		4.2	13.9
115	91	Elliott (B)	111		3.1	11.7
94	71	Expamet	93		2.2	17.6
184	130¼	FKI	165	- 1	3.7	15.3
157	118¼	Fenner	139		3.3	
28	1½	Ferrum	1½			
36½	22	Firth Hldgs	35½			73.6
138	77	GEI Intl	130	- 1	3.4	15.7
199	117	Garton Engt	188		3.8	10.2
378	292	Glynwed†	304	- 4	5.1	12.2
13½	10¼	Graystonet	12½		5.1	8.9
250	159	Hades Maclin	84		3.3	22.0
198	133	Hadleigh	195		1.9	16.6
215	135	Hall Eng	194		3.0	
125	133½	Halma	171		1.6	23.0
71	39	Hampson Ind	46½	- ½	5.7	9.2
45	19	Hay (Norman)	33	+ 3		
137	105	Hill & Smith	107		6.8	13.5
59	28	Hopkinsons	32		5.1	
41	28	How Gp	35		3.0	
95	70	Howden	73½		4.6	9.7
219	162	Hunting†	202	- 1	6.2	18.9
348½	286	IMI	311	- 4	4.3	28.1
	40¼	Johnson & FB	62½		0.6	64.9
614	499	Johnson Matth	536	+ 3	3.0	18.0
62½	28	Jones Shipman	49			
585	310	Kelsey Ind	578		3.5	14.7
280	265	Lincat	288		3.6	14.2
19½	11½	Locker (T) A	18		3.1	13.6
45	29	ML Hldgs	40		4.1	13.1
38	18	MS Intl	34		1.8	
234	137	Mang Bronze†	227	+ 2	2.8	11.3
476	376	McKechnie†	439	+ 1	4.8	12.8
95	61	Meggitt†	90		5.5	24.2
126	91¼	Metalrax	109		4.3	17.5
138	96	Metsect	98		4.0	20.7
825	487	Molins	799		2.8	13.9
415	293	Morgan Crucl	369	- 6	4.2	17.5
316	178	Morris Ashby	300		2.8	16.5
53	32	Neepsend	52		3.9	10.9
70	41	Nedronics	44	- 1	4.8	9.0
41½	12	OMI Intl	14		6.7	
391	293	Powerscreen	356		3.0	13.1
15½	4½	Prospect Inds	4¾		17.4	..
73	60	Radiant Metal	65			
64	41	Ransomes	60			
86	61	Recordt	66		8.8	13.2
407	235½	Renishaw▼	388		2.1	24.2
291	180	Renold	261		2.5	14.7
59	37	Richard (Leics)	37		7.6	12.9
99	66	Richardson West	80		5.5	13.1
194½	146	Rolls-Royce	181	+ 3	3.5	25.9
180	158½	Rotork	169	+ 1½	3.7	16.1
183	143	Rubicon	178		3.7	17.1
114	87	Senior Eng	95		4.6	32.6
333	263	Servomex	333		2.7	22.5
145	49	SetOd-Rve	144		1.3	24.9
779	498	Slebe	782	+ 7	2.0	21.1
89	67	Simon Eng	83			
177	73	Sixt Hundred	165		1.7	11.8
1471½	1034¾	SKF 'B'	1337½	- 18¾	3.2	12.1
812	423	Smiths Indt	812	+ 5	2.9	19.5
612	431	Spirax-Sarco	605	- 1	2.5	19.0
293	227	Sterling Ind	292		3.4	14.0
463	328	TI	442	- 5	3.5	20.7
102	92	Tinsley (E)	100		7.0	13.9
101	51	TransTec	85		2.1	
184	127	Triplex Lloyd	139		6.3	13.8
18	14	Utd Inds▼	18		2.8	12.8
15½	5	Verson	11			
279	162	Vickers	278	+ 7	2.4	22.4
14½	8½	Villiers Grp	12			
734	508	Vinten†	692		1.7	17.7
968	722	Vosper Thorny	834	- 1½	3.3	15.1
516	435	Wagon Ind	436		5.6	12.4
293	201	Weir	201	- 12	4.4	16.9
58½	36	Wellman	51½		3.9	9.8
503	390	Whatman	435		3.3	13.9
11½	8½	Widney	10		3.4	15.5

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
38	23	AAF Inds	25	+ 1		
294	153	Airflow Streaml	283	- 2	3.5	6.6
48½	41	Armourt	42½		5.8	12.1
528	440	Avon Rubber	524		4.0	18.9
291	181	BBA	275½	- 3½	2.3	
73¾	49½	BSGt	58¾		6.9	12.3
13	3½	Benson Group	3½		4.3	
340	285	Bostromt	300		2.6	16.6
24	17	Brastead	18		7.1	
14	9	Cavendale	11	+ ¼	3.2	7.3
357	270	ERF	274		2.1	16.1
503	370	First Tech	458		1.9	17.3
830	543	GKN	809	+ 3	3.4	16.5
3231¼	2343¾	General Mtrt	3300	+ 6¼	2.4	
1189½	846	Honda Motor	1189½	+ 7¼	0.8	
448	304	Laird†	404		3.6	15.4
440	345	Lowdes	405			
212	163	Lucast	185		4.7	56.5
97	53	Mayflower	97	+ 1	2.2	25.2
200	150	Sylone	188		3.5	17.5
187	129	T & N	129	- 1½	5.8	
378	324	Trinity Hldgs	350		2.7	18.9

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
739	556	AB Food	721	+ 16	2.3	12.9
267	205	Acatos & Hutch	266	+ 2	4.2	10.1
56	38	Albert Fishert	47½	- 1½	9.9	11.6
279	195	Banks (S C)	277		4.5	14.1
387	330	Barr (AG)	340	- 1	2.9	15.2
40	15	Bensons Crsp	29	+ 1		
445	348	Booker†	358	+ 3	7.9	18.2
47½	31	Borthwick	35	½	4.7	24.9
368	191	CPL Aromas	346		1.5	24.7
557	370	Cadbury-Schw	553	- 3	3.6	19.8
315	239	Carrs Milling	315	+ 2	3.4	
198	145	Carewick	193		5.8	12.2
118	94	Dalepak	94		4.2	13.9
484	379½	Dalgety†	391	+ 2	7.0	11.8
67	33½	Daniels S	45		8.3	
255	208	Devro	237	- 1	3.9	14.9
105	62	Everest†	101		5.0	9.1
20½	3½	Farringford	18			
	47	Finlay (James)t	66			
17½	10	Global	17½			
547	400	Greencore	541	+ 2	6.1	25.9
133	91	Hazlewood Fds	98	- 2	3.7	12.1
191	150	Hillsdown†	155		2.3	14.2
85	22¼	Hobsont	27½		8.5	9.0
85	61	JLI Group	61	- 1	7.4	10.4
353	305	Linton Park	305		3.6	31.6
123	94	Matthews (B)	97	- 1	10.4	10.2
243	211	Nichols (JN)	233		6.1	7.5
221	165	Nthn Foods	177		4.1	9.2
14	8½	Northmbn Fd	11½		3.3	15.0
230	80	Pascoe's	110		6.3	
52½	9	Pengiulen	3¾		8.6	
93	60	Perkins Food	72			
140	73	Scotperfect	95		7.7	10.2
147	84	Sentry Farm	147			
78	39	Sims Food	41		2.9	11.8
479	412	Tate & Lyle	423	- 6	9.1	13.7
408	204	Treat	326		4.4	9.5
440	333	Unigate†	417		2.0	14.7
1308	1124	Unilever†	1275	+ 8	5.6	14.3
8768¾	7200	Unilever (NV)	8748¾	+ 268¾	2.2	15.4
368	256	Utd Biscuits†	259	- 3	2.9	13.0
44	33	WT Foods	33		5.4	16.4
110	80	Yorkshire Food	89		9.5	12.3
					5.1	10.2

HEALTHCARE

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1070	770	Amersham†	874	- 24	2.4	12.8
102	43	Amagen	67			
307	165	Assoc Nursg	168		2.2	12.8
359	238	Bespak	321		4.0	22.2
480	162	Biocomps Int	465	+ 10		
81	60	Care UK	68	+ 1	0.5	17.7
150	71	Celsis	135	+ 3		
265	198	Community H	252		4.4	12.9
37	28	CrestaCare	30½	- ¼	3.4	10.6
113	15	Envomed	32		6.2	3.6
86	56	Ferrans Group	63		3.5	
156	110	Goldsborough	120	+ 7	4.2	
11	4¾	Greenacre	11			
833	428	Huntingdon Tec	775	- 18	4.3	13.4
15		Intercare Gp			1.1	28.7
310	235	Isotron	308		8.8	12.0
148	85	Life Sciences	87		2.1	17.6
141	85	Lon Intl	131	+ 1	8.3	9.0
79	41	Nestor-BNA	75		1.4	
60	8	Premier Health	11		5.2	16.8
290	230	Quality Care	275			0.8
248	118	Scholl	207		2.1	13.6
405	311¾	Seton Health	389	+ 1	4.0	
123	32	Shield Diag	120	+ 6	2.4	18.9
205	152	Smith & Nepht	193	- ½		64.1
22	7	Specialeyes	19		3.5	22.3
228	183	Takare	197	- 1		0.7
285	234	UniChem†	258	+ 1	1.5	13.6
356	283	West Hilbcare	328		3.6	14.6
					2.1	14.6

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
228	173	Airsprung	183		3.7	10.1
182	88	BLP Group	99		3.9	8.1
47½	29	Baston Barsea	43			22.8
108	56	Crowd Pk 'A'	85			
170	130	Creighton Nt	134		0.9	
168	141	Derby Group	164		7.2	9.6
145	127	Gaskell	142		2.4	18.2
458	343	IWP Intl	458	+ 5	3.7	11.0
5	2	Lionheart	2¾		2.6	12.8
215	188	McBride	203	+ 2	4.1	20.5
248	157¼	Maybom▲	248		3.4	13.9
485	365	Osborne & Little	403	+ 3	3.3	10.3
465	403	Paterson Zcnt	445		4.2	13.8
420	355	Paterson Zch 'A't	378		5.0	11.7
714	584	Reckitt Colmt	672	+ 2	3.6	15.6
291	256	Relyon	282		3.4	16.8
285	237	Royal Doulton	256		3.8	12.8
216	148	Silentnight†	183		5.5	12.3
32½	23	Stoddard	23		6.8	7.4
210	155	Tomkinsons	177	- 1	8.5	
130	85	Victoria Carpet	86		2.9	
108	79	Walker Greenbkt	85	- 1	5.3	16.3
66	51	Wilford Weigand	58½	+ 1½	1.7	19.7
225	155	Wood (Arthur)	175		3.0	13.8

INSURANCE

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1675	1187½	Alex & Alext	1437½	- 37½	4.5	
2481¼	1787½	Am Gent	2231¼	- 6¼	3.6	
98	76	Angerstein	89		4.3	26.3
63	51	Archer	54½		2.3	
98	44	Bradstock	66		10.8	9.2
744	385	Britannic	730		2.5	
98	84	CLM Insce	97		2.7	
653	473	Cem Union	653	+ 8	5.2	10.4
1660	1085	Dom & Gen	1470	+ 5	2.8	14.5
164	158¼	FBD IE	189¼		3.9	8.0
154	126	Fenchurch Grp	135		8.2	
107	82	Finsbury Under	108		2.0	53.0
707	499	Gen Accidentt	683	+ 18	5.5	9.1
292	160½	GREt	292	+ 22	3.6	5.7
97	79	HCG Lloyds	80½		4.4	30.0
249	145	Heath C E1	146		12.0	9.2
395½	207¼	Hiscox IE	290	+ 10½	3.7	30.4
111	88	Hiscox Select	105		2.6	41.4
363	258	Independent	341		3.7	7.5
260	178	Irish Life	292	+ 1	5.3	22.1
138	105	JIB Group	105	- 1	8.9	12.4
102	97	Kiln Capital	99		5.1	
722	414	Legal & Gent	694	+ 1	4.0	28.5
1968¾	1296¼	Liberty Life	1943¾	+ 16¾	7.1	5.8
182	135½	Lloyd Thomp	139		8.1	
468	317	Lloyds Abbey	461	+ 3	5.4	14.2
425	303	Londn & Man	409	+ 1	5.4	16.7
106	92	London Ins Mkt	100		3.6	23.4
185	126	Lowndes Lamb	131		8.2	7.2
5687¼	4787½	Marsh McLe	5687¼	+ 43¾	3.7	
101	79	Minet	99		3.2	26.4
181	136	Nelson Hurst	147		6.0	9.4
89	65	New London Cap	84		5.5	30.3
94	34	Octium	52		7.4	
110	90	Orion	101		6.5	11.5
82	66	Premium Trust	81		4.6	
122	85	Premium Under	132			
449	280	Prudential	438	+ 7½	4.2	18.6
36	13	PWS	20	+ 1	2.2	
473	241	Refuge	486		3.4	32.3
428	251	Royal	400	+ 11	4.1	7.8
169	104	Sedgwick	120	- 1	7.0	9.7
122	35	Steel Burrill	40		23.4	4.0
414	281	Sun Alliance	406	+ 7	5.0	11.5
94	66	Syndicate Cap	93		3.7	26.8
81	51	Trade Indemnity	71		1.9	31.6
713	458	Utd Friendly	718		3.7	15.3
172	118	Willis Corroon	133	+ 4	6.2	74.3
24	12	Windsor	14		4.5	5.0

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
447	333	3i	425	+ 4	2.2	
81	62	Abtrust Emerg	67½		0.4	
84	73	Abtrust High Inc	73	+ ½	9.6	
230	182	Abtrust N Dawn	204	- 1	0.7	
2033	1682	Alliance	2025	+ 5	3.1	
297	239	American Trust	288		2.4	
475	391	Anglo & O'seas	475	+ 2	1.8	
151	106	Baillie Gifford SN	126	+ 1		
213	172	Bankers	209	+ 1½	2.4	
48½	28½	Baring Em Eu	40¾	+ ½	..	
358	300	Baring Tribne	356	+ 2	2.4	
96	84½	Br Assets†	94½	+ ½	6.0	
97½	83	Br Empire Sec	93½		1.3	
37½	25	Br Empire Wts	33			
233	194	Br Inv	222		1.9	
101	69	Brazilian	73½			
265½	211	Brunner	249			
136	115	BZW Conv	115½	- ½	2.9	
498	318	Candover	496	+ 1	8.4	
53	34½	Central Euro Gwth	40		3.2	
185	144	China & Eastern	174	+ 2	1.4	
188	161	Contl Assct	181		2.6	
80	75	Danae Inv Inc	75		13.3	
345	278	Derby Cap	340	- 3		
166	148	Derby Inc	156		14.6	
736	617	Dunedin Inc G	723		4.8	
91	73	Dunedin Japan	83½	+ 1		
333	296	Dunedin Smlr	325		3.5	
42	18	Dunedin Wts	21			
807	678	Dunedin Wrdwde	778	+ 2	1.5	
109½	82¾	Edin Dragon	86¾	+ ½		
43½	21½	Edinburgh Inca	24			
339	281	Edinburgh†	325½	+ 1	3.7	
162	127	EFM Japan	144	+ 3		
376	307	Electra Inv	370			
219	180	Electric Gen	217	- 1	2.5	
144	108	English Scot	143	- 1	1.9	
350	273	European Asset	337			
199	147½	Fidelity Euro Val	193	- 1	1.9	
83	62¾	Fidity Jap Val	70½	+ 1	0.2	
108	81	Fidity Spec Valt	107		0.2	
175	149	Finsbury 'A't	171½	+ ½	0.6	
80	62	First Spanish	76		3.5	
330	267	Fleming Amer	298		0.4	
74	51½	Fleming Chineset	56		0.7	
39	20	Fleming Ch Wts	25	+ ¼	1.1	
248	198	Fleming Clavert	248	+ 3	3.0	
357	288½	Fleming Cont	348	+ 1	1.2	
158	125	Fleming Em Mkts	140	+ 1		
298	199	Fleming Entp	252			
360	278½	Fleming F East	321	+ 1	2.5	
402	327	Fleming Fledg	397		0.6	
105	90	Fleming Hi Inct	98		0.9	
87	53	Fleming Indus	56½	+ 1½	5.9	
46	26	Fleming Ir Wts	25½		1.0	
39½	29	Fleming Inl	36¼			
258	203	Fleming Japan	250	+ 2	11.9	
303	252½	Fleming Merc	292	+ ½		
97	72½	Fleming Nat Res	90	+ 1	3.0	
329	269	Fleming Overs	328	+ 1½	1.8	
154½	124	Foreign & Col	154½	+ 1	1.5	
110	91	For & Col Inc Gwtht	103		3.9	
120½	93	Frgn Emg Mkts	103	+ 1		
87	67½	Frgn Enterprise	85¾	-		
263	204½	Frgn Eurotrt	256	+ 1	1.2	
135	115	Frgn German	125½		0.6	
179	137½	Frgn Pacific	175½	+ 2	0.5	
139	130	Frgn PEP	135		1.0	
176	153	Frgn Smaller	173½		3.6	
131	90	Frgn US Smlr	128		1.5	
24	17½	Fulcrum Cap	18½			
46	33	Fulcrum Inct	34			
161½	141	Fulcrum Zero	161½			
220	188	Gartmore Brit	216			
213	174	Gartmore Ent	211	+ 1	4.2	
187	127	Gartmore Euro	165		2.4	
101	84	Gartmore Shrd	93		0.9	
249	207	G'more Smlr Cos†	244		13.2	
100	84	Gdered Inc Inv	87		2.9	
183	138	Genl Cons Cap	174		11.9	
113	104	Genl Inct	105			
105	86	German Inv	100½		11.1	
246	192	Gov Asia Sm Cos	207	+ 3	0.2	
119½	86	Gov Emg Mkts	101	+ 1½	0.2	
197	135	Govett Am Smlr	187		0.4	
89	71	Gov Glob Smlr	84			
86	70	Govett High Inc	76½			
381	322	Govett Orientalt	363½	+ 1	9.2	
282	223	Govett Strategict	291½	+ ½	0.4	
443	361	Greenfriar	436		2.9	
19	6	Gresham House	8		2.0	
251	191	GT Japan	234	+ 2		
136	113	H Govett Smlr▼	131		0.7	
128	113	Hend High	122		1.9	
355	258	Hend Strata	355		5.9	
134	80	Herald	133		0.5	
108	81	High Income T	83		0.5	
107	67¾	HTR Jap Smaller	91½	+ 2	9.8	
17	12	I&S Ert	15			
119	93	I&S Uk Smlr	116			
146	118	Inv Capt	142	- 2	3.0	
121	76	Intl Biotech	109	+ 7	4.7	
57	37	Int Wts	45	+ 9	1.1	
	74	INVESCO Asia	92½	+ 2¾		
72	51	INVESCO Blue	64½			
135	82	INVESCO Eng Inf	134		17.0	
149	122	INVESCO Korea	136		0.7	
61	49	INVESCO Tokyo	56½	+ 1		
99	82	J Fry 2nd Uf	91½		9.2	
94	81	J Fry Euro U	83		6.7	
225	174	JF Fledg Jap	225	+ 6		
126	99	Jupiter Intl Grn	125		3.4	
249	194	Kleinwort Chrt	245½		2.7	
121	96¾	Kleinwort E'Mkt	112½	+ ½	..	
139¼	110	Klnwt End	128½			
84½	73	Klnwt Euro Prvt	82½		3.5	
27½	21	Klnwt Euro Wts	21¾			
91	74	Klnwt H Inct	80			
269	213	Klnwt O'seas	267	+ ½	13.4	
140	117	Klnwt Smlr	138	+ 1	1.6	
605¼	427¼	Korea—Euro	555¼	-	2.2	
125¼	71	Latin American	98¼	+ 2¼	0.1	
895	718	Law Debenture	978	- 9		
102	77	Lloyds Sm Cap	102		2.7	
29½	28	Lloyds Sm Dtr	29½			
130	102	Lloyds Sm Pkg	138		17.5	
178	150	Lon St Lawrence	177		3.6	
101	78¼	Lon Smaller Co'st	98		4.5	
355	283	Lowland†	337	+ 2	4.0	
1387½	1125	Lydenburg	1225		3.7	
665	503	M&G 2nd Dual Cp	653	- 5	1.9	
125	110	M&G 2nd Dual In	113			
3073	2533	M&G Dual Cap	3063	- 10	27.0	
313	210	M&G Dual Inc	225			
66½	60	M&G Inc Geared†	64½			
33	26¼	M&G Inc Inv Tst Cp	31		9.9	
37½	31½	M&G Inc Inv Tst Inct	34			
130	116	M&G Inc Packaget	129		18.8	
66	54¾	M&G Inc Zero Div	63½		4.9	
30½	23	M&G Rec Cap	23½			
61½	48	M&G Rec Gearedt	49		10.1	
33	24½	M&G Rec Inct	25		20.2	
139	127	M&G Rec Pacpt	137		3.6	
91½	73	M&G Rec Zero Div	91	- ½		
122	100	M Curie Euro	113	- 1	0.4	
95½	93¼	M Currie Japan	94			
152	119	M Currie Pac	133		0.1	
219	182	Majedie	219		3.3	
57	42	Manakin	44			
287	241	Merchants	284		5.1	
92	78½	Mercury Euro Pv	88½		2.0	
32	23¼	Mercury Eur Wt	25½			
99	78	Mercury World	89½	- 1	0.9	
31	14	Mercury Wld Wts	14	- ½		
577	482	Monks Inv Tst	566		2.0	
164	125	Morg Gren Inct	158		4.0	
63	40½	Morg Wts	58			
86	48	Morg Lath Amer	59½	+ ¼		
49	20	Morg Wts	22			
130	104	Murray Ent	119		2.5	
34	22	Murray Ent Wts	22			
92	72½	Murray Emg Eco	80		1.4	
40	18	Murray Em Sc Wt	21			
85	54	Murray Euro	55½		0.8	
17½	10	Murray Eu Wts	10½			
375	308	Murray Income	375		4.8	
378	296	Murray Intl	376	+ 1	4.2	
182½	162½	Murray S/C DP	181½			
151	126	Murray S/C Cap	144			
81	73	Murray S/C Inct	73		17.8	
3250	2800	Murray S/C Ulst	3025		0.4	
460	376	Murray Smallr	435		1.3	
377	308	Murray Vent	360		4.1	
19	11	Newmarket	15			
81	53	Nettrog Inc	58		10.4	
79	61	Nettrog Cap	70	+ 1		
372	316	O'seas Inv Tst	363	+ 3	1.2	
199	156	O'seas Wts	166	+ 2		
141	90½	Pacific Assets	128	+ 3	0.3	
95	79½	Perpetual Jap	82½	+ 1½		
288	216	Perpt Uk Sm Co	287		1.0	
£106⅜	8425	Personal Assets	£106⅜	+ 25	2.3	
125	106	Pilot Invt	106	- 1	2.2	
112½	87¼	Prolific Inc	111¾		4.0	
209	164	RIT Cap Ptnr	209	+ 1	0.9	
35	26½	River Merc Am Cap	34¼			
104	97	River Merc Am Inc	103		9.5	
11	6½	River Merc Am Wts	9½			
134	114	River Merc Cap	130			
97	77¼	River Merc Ex Inct	80		10.8	
16	8	River Merc Ex Incw	10			
85	78	River Merc Gnd Inct	82		11.6	
29	25½	River Merc Gnd Ptl	27½			
112	106	River Merc Tst Inct	107		10.7	
141	112	River Merc Sm Co	135		4.0	
43	20	River Merc Sm Wt	34			
460	394	Robeco	460		3.1	
492	398	Rolinco	492		1.6	
117	103	Schrod Inc Gwth	112			
94	67	Schrod Jap Gwth	92½	+ 1½		
861	635½	Schrod Korea	849½	-		
298	146	Schrod Medtn	291		0.3	
30	24½	Schrod Split Cap	25			
113	100	Schrod Split Inct	103		9.5	
128½	109¾	Schrod Split Zero	128¾			
121	88	Schrod UK Gwth	120		2.5	
253½	200	Scot	253½	+ 1	2.8	
171	147½	Scot Americant	163	+ ½	3.8	
305	216	Scot Asian	278	+ 1		
815	555	Scot Wts	698	+ 15		
85	74¾	Scot Eastern	93	+ ½	2.2	
251	206	Scot Mrget	249½	+ 1	2.3	
97	78½	Scot Nat Tstt	92¾		10.4	
117	100	Scot Value	112		2.3	
1837	1483	Second Allnce	1828	+ 5	3.1	
93	76	Secs Tst of Scott	91½		4.6	
150	124	Selective Assest	144		1.4	
142	123	SHIRESCOTt	137		5.2	
357	289	St Andrew Inv	353		3.0	
391	318	Temple Bar	387		4.6	
114	90	Thrgmtn Asian E	103½	+ 1	0.6	
61	16½	Throg Dual Cp	58			
65	68	Throgmorton	80		3.6	
134	98	Thrgmtn Emg Mkt	124	+ ½	0.8	
171	139½	TR City Of Lon	171	+ 1	3.9	
201	159	TR Euro Growth	201		1.1	
167	127	TR Far Eastt	165	+ 1½	4.6	
119	80	TR Pacific	105½	+ 1	0.2	
31½	26¼	TR Property	28½		4.3	
208	171	TR Smlr Cos	202	+ ½	2.4	
208	100	TR Tech Inv	186	+ 1	1.8	
241	177	Turkey Trust	178		1.4	
257	217	USDC Invest	256		2.2	
117	93	Undervalued Ast	115½		1.9	
130	108	Value Inc Tst	136		4.3	
88	78	Voyageur Er Sm	81	- 1	0.8	
36	30¼	Warrants & Val	33½			
66	58	Wigmore	60		1.7	
282	211½	Witan	260½	+ 1	3.0	
99	83	Yeoman Inc	85			21.8

LEISURE & HOTELS

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
60	25	Abrdn Stk H	50			
449	308	Airtours	310	+ 1	5.6	6.8
44	14¼	Ald Leis▲	42			16.0
153	99	Alpha Airpts	113		5.3	11.3
61	38	Arcadian	57	- 1	1.8	
185	128	BS Group	140		2.7	19.2
168	111	Baldwin	165		3.3	13.3
235	197	Barr & Wall	217	+ 7	6.3	11.5
394	202	Bluebird Toys	327		3.2	10.7
475	333	Boosey Hwks	475		1.6	26.0
3¾	1¼	Brent Walker	1¾	+ ¼		
46	33	Burndene	39		6.2	13.3
26½	5½	Cadet Pic	8½		5.9	
348	248	Chrysalis	346		1.0	
97	70½	City Centr Rest	85½		2.8	18.5
456	305	Compass Gp	446	- 2	2.0	23.2
288	201	Eurocamp	205	- ½	6.5	8.6
250	118	Euro Disney	170	- 2		
181	93	Euro Leisure	170			5.1
118½	57	First Choice▼	57	- 2	7.1	11.1
354	262	First Leisure	354		2.6	21.0
356	224½	Fortet	342	- ½	2.7	38.9
175	133	Friendly Hotelst	151	- 1	4.7	17.7
709	476	Granada	649	+ 11	2.3	15.5
207	108	Groupe Chez Gn	197	- 1	1.5	23.4
38	16	Hi-Tec Sports	30		5.3	
168	86	Hornby	148		4.2	12.7
228¼	134	Jarvis Hotel	228¼	+ 2¼	3.4	14.6
26½	14¾	Kunick	23½		4.0	25.3
443	264	London Clubs	433	+ 6	4.1	15.3
187½	122	Ladbroket	143	- 1	5.2	43.4
84	29	Magnolia	29		8.4	
213	122	Man Utdt	203		2.8	8.5
97½	58	Mandarin Orntl	78½	+ 3¼	4.6	16.8
152½	92½	My Kinda Townt	135	- 5	2.8	13.4
97	66	Northern▼	93		5.4	11.3
120½	70	Pelican Gp	117	- 1	1.6	24.3
218	121	PizzaExpress	216		1.3	25.8
141	76	Prism Leisure	128		4.7	9.6
20	5¾	Queens Most	9½	+ 1		
285	217	Ramsdens (H)	265	- 2	2.1	31.1
464	358	Rank Org	413	- 1	4.2	14.0
37	26	Ryan Hotels IEt	34½		4.7	12.1
1060	845	Savoy Hotel 'A'	1050		0.8	55.4
89½	74½	Stakis	83	- 1	2.5	18.4
398	314	Stanley Leisure	355		2.2	16.6
346	280	Tanjong	346		1.0	22.9
1588	997	Thorn EMI	1568	+ 30	2.9	23.2
220	117	Tottenham Hot	220		1.7	7.2
113	63	Toy Options	105	- 4	3.1	
245	161	VCI	245	+ 1	2.2	16.8
156	103½	Vardon	109		1.7	16.3
650	216	Wembley	305			
135	96	Zetters Gp	126		9.8	10.0

MEDIA

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
490	335	Abbott Mead	474		2.1	28.1
310	260	Adscene	265		3.8	14.7
40	22	Aegis Gp	38¼			15.5
7¾	1¾	Allied Radio	4	+ ¼		
13	9	BBB Design	10			
315	155	Barbour Index	314		3.6	38.7
10½	4½	Brindale	7½	+ ¼		
345	315	Black (A&C)	330		5.3	12.8
281	174	Blenheim Grpt	244		5.3	15.0
233	186	Border TV	212	- 2	2.8	19.9
368	335	Bristol	362	+ 2	4.8	23.0
461	242	BSkyB	428½	- 5½	0.7	48.6
150	126	CIA Gp	134		1.8	26.4
30	22	Caledonian Med	25			
513	343	Capital Radio†	513	+ 3	2.5	
1082	861	Carlton Comms	982	+ 6	2.8	15.2
100	83	City of Lon	86		7.4	10.7
116	83	Cordiant▲	80½			
1431½	1181½	Daily Mail	1309¾	+ 6¼	1.6	18.1
1208¾	958¾	Daily Mail 'A'	1146¾	+ 3¼	1.8	15.9
545	295	Dorling Kindt	528	- 1	0.9	43.1
574	385	EMAP	574	+ 1	2.4	22.2
898½	584¾	Elsevier	892	+ 2¼	2.5	22.3
1655	930	Euromoney Pb	960	+ 2	5.8	
25½	10	Flich	22½			14.8
508	333	Flextech	486	+ 1		
240	143	GGT Group	238		2.8	19.4
170	109½	GWR Gp	170	+ 1	1.4	33.8
26	13	Goodhead	20		0.3	
216	130½	Grampian	204		2.9	17.4
278	132	HTV Group	277	+ 1	1.2	29.6
356	255	Haynes Pub	290	- 5	4.1	14.3
50	17	Highbury Hse	24	- 1		
390	233	Hodder H'line	258		2.9	16.0
162	137	Home Counts	145		4.7	16.6
348	228	IBC	298		3.4	12.8
13½	6½	Incepta	11	+ 1		5.4
398	248	Independent	390	+ 2	2.8	18.7
135	98	Intereuropa	100	+ 1	9.8	
169	136	Johnston Press	158			
25	15	Lopex	18½		1.6	19.1
355	63	MAID	274	+ 39	3.8	15.9
638	528	Metal Bulletin	638	+ 1	2.5	26.9
133	109	Midland Ind	128		3.3	13.4
189	120	Mirror Gp	189	+ 1	2.4	12.3
483	344	More O'Ferrall	452		3.7	18.6
385	231	News Corp	347	+ 4	0.4	10.2
338	207	News Intl	305		1.3	12.0
35	15	Osprey Comms	24	+ 2	1.0	
686	539	Pearson	682	+ 33	2.8	20.0
267½	155	Phonelink	194	+ 8		
606	533	Portsmth Sundt	575		2.6	14.4
281	210	Quarto	254		3.1	12.8
1045	712	Reed Intl	1045	+ 1	2.7	27.0
631	404	Reuters	620	+ 3	1.7	26.4
334	222½	Scott Radio	313	+ 1	2.6	
515	393	Scot TV	480		4.1	31.6
35	20½	SelecTV	28½			48.8
41	32	Shandwick	36½		4.5	8.5
65	33	Sleepy Kids	39	+ 1		20.9
274	222	Southnews	259		2.4	15.9
98	20	Sterling Pub	26		3.6	
115	105	Sunset & Vine▲	108	- 1	5.1	
45	33½	Taylor Nelson	41½		2.1	21.1
453	355	Telegraph	420	- 2	3.9	31.4
885	725	Thomson Corpt	835	- 10	5.2	17.6
352	301½	Trinity Intl	345		3.9	13.3
965	632	Ulster TV	963		2.9	18.7
571	464	United Newst	553	- 10	5.2	14.5
121	85	VTRt	116		4.7	
187	101	WPP	157	- 1	0.9	21.6
628	386	Yorkshire TV	630		1.5	56.3

MINING

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
4625	3693¾	Ang Am Coalt	4018¾		2.9	14.9
3950	2848¾	Ang Am	3837½	+ 12½	2.2	28.0
6487½	4975	Ang Am Goldt	5128¾	- 16¾	4.3	14.5
32	22	Anglo Pac Res	26¾			
40¼	17	Arcon Intl	25	+ 1		
1600	1100	Ashanti	1190¾	- 25	1.4	13.8
117	74	Ashton	91	- 1	5.8	
245	133	Balynchik	209	- 3		
811¼	337¾	Beatrix	579¼	-	3.8	26.4
34	28	Bisichi	31		2.9	
117½	78¼	Blyvoors	81¼	- 3¼		
37	24	Bougainville	26	- 1		
	7½	Bracken	9¼		9.1	
583¼	224	Buffels	236¼	- 4¼		
4	1½	Bude	2			
1076	781	CRA	1036	- 2	2.8	23.8
65	40	Central Pacific	62			
97	41	Cluff Res	78	- 1		
120	30	Coal Inv	35	- 21		
225	117	Cons Murchison	138		4.5	3.7
1912½	1262¾	De Beers	1825	- 6¼	2.9	20.1
108¼	47	Deelkraal	55½			
997½	693½	Driefontein	694	- 4¼	5.9	16.9
785¼	409¾	Durban	453¼	-		
210¾	127¼	E Rand Goldt	155¼	- 8¼	14.4	7.0
78½	31½	E Rand Prop	32¾			
70	45	Eastern Trans	64			
450¼	273¾	Elandsrand	339	- ¼	1.8	61.4
415	323	Eng China Clt	326	- 3	2.9	11.5
975¼	527¾	FS Const	539	+ 7¼	6.3	15.8
62	31	FS Dev	40		5.1	19.5
2081¼	1418¾	GFSA	1868¾		3.1	
53	40	GM Kalgoorli	61	+ 2	2.1	24.9
244½	189½	Gencor	232	-	2.4	
154	136	Gold Fields Prop	154		1.5	20.3
19	12¼	Greenwich R 'A'	15		6.9	6.9
182¼	116¼	Grootvlei	136½	- 2	6.5	17.0
102½	76¼	Gwalia Cons	99	- ¼	1.0	19.0
857½	457¼	Harmony	578¼	- 18¼	1.2	16.5
296¼	155½	Hartles	163¼	- 4	9.2	12.1
1743¾	1150	Impala Plat	1340¾	- 9¾	2.3	19.5
132	77	Kidston	81	- 2	14.8	7.3
1087½	476¾	Kinross	568¾	- 25	8.0	6.6
946¾	590	Kloof	604¾	- 12¼	5.6	17.8
124¼	65¼	Leslie	68		11.8	5.6
288	174¼	Loraine	196	-		
21	12	Medallion	15	+ 2		
113	77	MIM	87	- 1	2.8	
1850	1250	Minorco	1850		2.3	23.1
181	36	Monarch	64			
138	80	Montagele	138		2.8	10.4
109	84½	NSM	89	- 2	7.8	7.8
191	133	Nth Broken Hill	179	- 4	3.0	25.9
108	66	Pancontinental	102			
265	123	Pelling Tin	215	- 3	1.0	
182	116	Placer Pac	137	- 2		
543	317	RJB	543	+ 6	2.9	15.0
957	721	RTZt	935	- 3	3.3	13.5
54	24	Radwood	33		2.6	12.5
743¼	562½	Rand Mines	600		4.8	14.0
727¼	320¾	Randfontein	408¼	- 24¼	8.5	16.8
310	175	Renison	295		1.6	12.2
1753¾	1090¾	Rustnbrg	1118¾	- 28¼	3.4	
73	35	St Barbara	40	- 1	3.6	9.9
623¼	324	St Helena	359¼	+ 3¼	15.4	5.4
342	207	Sons Gwalia	342		3.5	21.8
26	15	Sthern Pacific	25			
2016¾	1353¼	Southvaal	1543¾	- 59¾	5.0	19.9
123	38½	Stillwater	59½	- 6	21.0	8.0
210½	123¾	Unisel	171½	- 3¼	6.8	12.3
5800	3359¾	Vaal Reefs	4181¼	- 3¼	9.8	9.1
19	8	Wankie Col Z	17	+ ¼	7.3	4.0
1¾	0¼	Water Hall	1			
533	473	Watts Blake	515		3.4	17.3
2587½	1653¾	Western Deep	2068¾	- 25	3.0	10.5
449¼	302	Western Mng	436	- 3	1.3	44.3
881¼	416¼	Winkels	478¼	- 28¼	7.8	9.8
48	30	Zambia Copper	30			
53	28	Zandpan	28		8.3	

OIL & GAS

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
62	34	Abbot Group	55			
78½	39¾	Aran Energy	76¾			
56½	41	Aus Oil & Gas	44½	- ¼		
59	45	Aviva Pet	55			
305	220	Br Borneo	291		3.2	13.6
317½	222½	British Gast	239½	- 4	7.6	18.0
526½	382	Br Petroleumt	525	+ 10½	3.3	15.2
3	2	Bula Resources	2¼	+ ¼		
999	815	Burmah Castrlt	965	- 1	4.0	15.8
111	68¾	Cairn Energy	104			
280	218	Calor Gp	232		6.7	12.9
57	36	Clyde Pet	50		2.6	10.5
14	5¾	Coplex Res	9¾			
2¼	1½	Dragon Oil	1½			
22½	18	Edin Oil & Gs	22			12.3
424	329	Enterprise	355	+ 1	5.6	20.1
280	230	Flogast	235		5.4	10.7
8½	5	Fortune	8			59.0
79	62	Goal Pet	66		2.8	10.1
42	14	Gt Western Res	14			
198	129	Hardy O & G	183	+ 2	0.7	
7½	4½	Int Tool & Sup	6¾			
226	158	JKX Oil & Gas	175	- 1		
186	139	LASMO	163	+ 1½	0.8	
58	33	Lasmo Units	40		25.9	
70¾	58	Monument	59¾			37.6
2918¾	2134¾	Norsk Hydro	2671½	- 3¼	1.6	14.6
50	27½	Oceanics	28			
58	38	Oil Search	54	+ 1		
41½	27	Petroz	27	- ½		
29½	22½	Premier	24½			14.9
43	11	Presidio	11			
96	41	Pittencrieff Rs	48	+ 4	1.3	
388	221	Ramco Egy	385	- 2	0.3	53.2
453	330	Ranger	370		5.6	
8487½	6865¾	Royal Dtch Ft	8443¾	+ 18¾	4.3	15.6
4490¾	3216¾	Schlumberger	4206¼	- 3½	2.3	
49	25	Scott Pickford	25	- 1	4.5	5.1
116	84	Seafield	86			45.1
817½	687	Shell	817	+ 12	4.4	18.2
4316¾	3234¾	Total	4028¾	+ 26	3.9	14.3
14½	8½	Villiers Grp	12			
329	221	Woodside	324		1.2	
58	30	XCL	30			

OTHER FINANCIAL

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
101	75	BWD	86		6.1	14.0
163	128	Baltic Plc	148		2.7	8.1
78	38	Berry Bch Ntl	40		8.1	11.3
285	148	Bolec Inv	270	+ 32		
158	112	Brewin Dolphin	153		4.9	15.9
695	625	Caledonia	695		3.1	27.4
2400	1900	Camellia	2000		2.3	18.4
22½	13	Carlisle	18	+ ¼	1.7	19.2
216	142	Cattles	213½	- ½	3.5	18.8
35	16	Christie	24			
17½	13½	EFG	17		3.7	3.4
90	61	EFT Group	90		2.5	16.2
775	664	EFM	687		4.5	15.6
186	113	Exco	113		6.6	5.8
305	161	Gartmore	280	- 3	2.5	24.3
379	228	Govett	232	- 4	8.2	3.7
1272	953	Henderson Adt	1205	- 3	4.7	24.6
266	162½	Invesco	266	+ 1	2.3	18.3
49	41	Investment Co	41		7.1	12.3
233	198	Ivory Sime	229		4.1	17.0
248½	164½	Jardine Strat	174½	+ 1¾	5.4	5.6
144	85	Johnson Fry	129		3.9	9.0
215	131	Lon Forfaiting	215	+ 1	5.5	15.3
170	116	Lon Scot Bk	170		3.2	19.8
182	153	Man ED & F	159	- 1	7.7	7.9
1353	953	M & G	1250	+ 5	3.1	21.9
346	224	MAI	338		3.2	16.8
130½	78	MAI 5.9% Cv Pf	124½	-	5.9	
968	680	MAMI	891	+ 7	3.9	18.6
130	90	Nat Home Loan	96	+ 1	1.3	3.3
1775	1150	Perpetual	1725	+ 8	2.0	
818	515	Provident	810	+ 6	3.9	17.7
330	245	Rathbone Br	319	+ 2	3.7	16.4
41½	24½	Rutland Tst	39		4.2	17.0
355	281	S & U	296		5.5	8.7
133	105	SJP Capital	114	+ 1	3.3	21.3
525¼	305¼	Swire Pacific	501½	+ 3¼	2.4	19.5
78	42	Towry Law	44			
371	302	Transatlantic	348		5.1	33.3
26	8	Trio Hldgs	8		1.6	13.1
26	19	Western Selectn	22		1.4	

PHARMACEUTICALS

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
2100	425	Brit Biotech	1675	+ 127		
345	109	Cantab Pharms	325	+ 5		
611	233½	Celltech	602	+ 53		
325	92½	Chiroscience	309	+ 17		
183	31	Cortecs	171	+ 9		
268	103	Fisons	264		1.2	
900	587	Glaxo Wellcome	871	- 1	4.3	19.9
294	162	Medeva	277	+ ½	1.8	17.8
719	273	Scotia	588	+ 25		
705½	444	SmithKlinet	694½		2.4	20.6
694½	416	Smithkline Utst	682½	- 3	2.5	20.3
1321	840	Zeneca	1313	- 6	2.7	26.8

PRINTING & PAPER

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
142	120	AG Holdings	136		5.4	12.3
537	377	API	537		2.2	23.4
290	167	Arjo Wiggins	167	- 4½	5.6	7.5
50	31	Ashquay Grp	50			
350	162	Aspen Coms	234	- 1	3.0	17.4
426	347	Benrose	398		4.2	12.8
3471½	1675	Bowater Inc	2734½	- 3½		
429	280	Boxmore Intl	475	+ 1	1.4	19.5
700	474	Br Polythene	655		2.8	15.0
40	22	Br Thornton	31		8.1	10.5
160	112	Bruton Grp	157		2.1	16.7
218	159	Bunzl†	179		3.6	12.3
187	137	Capital Indst	167		3.7	12.0
2916½	2046½	Carnaud Mbl	2868¾	- 12½	2.0	17.1
314	237	Cropper (James)	289	+ 5	1.6	19.1
1054	643	De La Ruet	643	- 17	4.5	13.5
92	52	Delyn Group	76	- 4	2.9	11.1
123	93	Dolphin Pack	123		4.8	15.5
100	81	Fairway Group	95		4.9	13.9
352	205	Ferguson Intl	306		8.0	9.2
192	102	Ferry Pick	192		3.9	17.2
206	138	Inveresk	178		4.0	15.7
295	245	James Porter	287		2.7	15.2
548	381	Low & Bonar	477	- 1	3.1	14.4
74	50	MY Holdings	67		3.8	
224	152¼	Macfarlane	195		2.2	18.4
332	150	Photobition	316	+ 2	2.4	21.1
230	163	Plysu	187		4.7	20.9
519	329½	REXAM	332	- 3	5.3	10.7
461	324	St Ives Grp	459	+ 1	2.3	18.1
1329¼	925½	Sappi	1004½	- ¼	0.5	
	5½	Senl	8			
205	135	Sidlaw†	135	- 2	10.2	
339	241	Smith David	255		3.2	10.1
215	156	Smurfit (Jeff)	162	+ 2	2.9	9.4
99	82	Somerset	84		4.5	7.2
261	213	Waco	245	+ 7	2.9	11.6
236	187	Waddington (J)	219		5.2	12.9
445	350	Watmough	426		2.5	18.2
191	131	Wyndeham†	190		3.0	17.2

PROPERTY

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
93	64	Allied Lont	64		7.8	5.8
316	255	Argent	299			
90	66	Artesian Ests	74		2.5	17.8
128	103	Asda	120		2.6	30.0
258	210	Billont	215	+ 4	5.8	15.3
215	135	Birkby	135		6.9	8.2
27	7	Bolton Gp	23			
73	44	Bourne Endt	45			
203	171	Bradfordt	185		3.2	60.6
123	96	Brightstone	98		5.0	17.2
436	354	Br Land	377	+ 1	5.0	45.9
202	163	Brixtont	179	+ 1	2.5	31.8
106	60½	Burford	102		5.9	16.6
101	93	CLS Hldgs	93	- 2	2.3	27.2
172	131	Cap & Regnl	147		6.8	12.7
225	187	Cap Shop Ctrs	206		2.0	15.9
228	153	Cardiff Prop	153		4.2	24.6
29½	10	Catfray Ind	14	+ 2	2.1	27.7
190	143	Chelsfield	173		1.9	37.9
468	422	Chesterfield†	425		3.8	18.5
88	55	Chesterton Int	67		5.6	9.4
53	38	City Site Ests	39			9.0
8	5	Clarke Nicholls	7½			
102	97	Compco	102		3.7	10.6
30	19	Con Ribbis	25		4.1	12.9
1205	1160	Daejan	1160		2.9	27.9
7	2½	Dares Estates	2¾		3.4	11.2
95	41	Debenham Twsn	46		9.5	8.5
163	136	Dencora	137		3.4	13.5
315	225	Derwent Hldgs	315	+ 5	2.0	16.4
195	130	Development Sec	174			
46	31	Dwyer	35		4.0	12.7
37	26	Etec	34	- 1		19.1
380	250	Estates Agency	325		5.3	
23½	13	Estates Gen	13			
119	82	Evans Of Leeds	109		3.2	16.2
27½	18	Ex-Lands	21	- ½	3.0	
69	52	Fiscal Prop	54½		4.4	16.8
26½	21	Five Oaks†	22		4.0	10.5
23	16	Fletcher King	18		6.9	
80	51	Foliet Group†	59		3.6	7.8
59	34	Folkes Group nvl	56		3.4	7.4
499	405	Frogmore	447		5.0	
282	236	Grainger	245		3.1	13.5
198	159	Gr Portland†	166	- 1	6.6	13.1
161	117½	Greycoat	144	+ 2	0.5	
39	22	Hambro Cntyw	36		0.2	
398	310	Hammerson	340	+ 1	3.7	23.8
332	300	Helical Bar	323		2.6	12.5
28½	22	Hemingway	22¼		3.0	15.7
21	7	Hemng Bakers	10½			
50	26	High-Point	33	+ 5	1.9	
148½	88½	HK Land	119	+ 2½	6.3	13.2
165	153	Jermyn	160		2.0	
2	0¼	Kendall				
645	545	Land Secst	600	+ 4	5.3	17.5
326	283	London Indt	283	- 2	4.9	15.1
37	30	Lon & Assoct	31½		2.7	16.5
9	4½	Lon & Metro	5			
107	86	Lon Merch Sec	92		6.0	20.7
418	358	MEPC	389	- 1	6.7	
7½	5½	McInerney A	5½			
185	125	McKay Secs	125		5.2	16.3
80	48	Menvale Mre	72	- 1	6.5	10.5
35	25	Moorfield Est	32	+ 4	3.9	17.4
1250	850	Mountview	1012½		3.4	7.3
151	124	Muckiow (A&J)†	136		6.0	18.5
1	0¼	ORB	0¼			
32	23	Olives Prop	26			
146	125	PSIT	133	+ 3	1.4	23.3
319	204	Peel	319		5.1	15.7
178	145	Pillar Prop	148		2.2	
2¼	1¼	Power Corp	2		2.5	40.5
6½	3¼	Premier Land▲	6¼			
110	70	RPS Group	109			14.9
34	21	Raglan	22		3.6	14.3
39	18	Regalian	23		5.7	6.9
163	100	Rowlinson Secs	143			26.4
102	93	Rugby Est	93		3.0	11.1
57	40	St Modwen Prp	54		2.8	8.2
68	54	Saville Grdn (J)	57		4.2	7.9
63	42	Savills	52		6.6	13.3
61	57	Scot Mett	71		6.0	9.5
121	86	Shaftesbury	121		4.4	11.0
243	188	Slough Estates	213		1.5	26.4
220	185	Smart (J)	215		4.8	25.9
55	37	Southend Prop	42		5.2	
110	103	Specty Shopst	103		7.5	
57	36	TBI	57		1.6	14.4
187	131	Tops Ests	131		0.4	40.8
104	85	Town Centrt	94		2.3	33.0
101	79	Trafford Park	97		4.3	14.7
50	33	UK Land	50	+ 1	4.3	
61	40	WSP Group	46		2.5	5.6
219	192	Warner	203		5.7	10.3
235	204	Warnford	204		7.0	17.2
79	63	Wates	68½		4.8	16.8
35	25	Whitney Mck	28			
66	33	Wood John D	37		6.8	9.2

RETAILERS, FOOD

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
111	64½	ASDA Group	104	+ 3	2.6	17.6
369	254½	Argyll	319	+ 8	4.8	13.5
718	455	Brake Brost	664	- 5	1.6	30.0
39	23	Budgen	33½		4.1	31.5
18	11½	Cullens	15½		4.0	22.1
89¼	45	Dairy Farm Intl	54		7.3	7.6
355	307	Farepak	307		3.1	15.0
55	38	Fitzwilton	50		5.7	21.2
115	95	Fyffes	107		1.9	15.3
200	107	Geest†	143		7.1	57.1
1283	1048	Greggs	1153		2.6	15.9
196	142	Iceland Group	161	- 3	4.1	9.7
732	519	Kwik Save	565	- 4	4.5	10.1
19½	10	Merchant Retail	16½			
170	132	Morrison (W)	140	- 4	1.1	11.5
199	126	Nurdin Peack	165	- 3	5.3	13.9
128	83	Park Foods	88	- 1	4.1	17.6
30	7½	Regina Hlth	13			15.2
479½	369½	Sainsbury Jt	386	+ 1	3.9	12.8
339	236	Tesco†	294½	+ 5½	3.8	14.0
175	128	Thorntons	140	- 1	4.7	16.0
515	356	Watson& Philip	507	+ 2	3.8	17.8

RETAILERS, GENERAL

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
80	21	Alexon	79	+ ½		
244	167	Allders	192		4.5	10.8
574	324	Argos Plc	553	+ 2	2.7	23.3
131	83	Ashley (Laura)	125			
249	54	Asprey	249		0.6	34.2
225	178	Austin Reedt	178		4.2	10.3
146	123	Beattie (J) 'A'	137		5.9	15.0
124	100	Bentalls	101		2.7	11.0
88	38	Betterwaret	79		4.1	45.4
51	30	Blacks Leis	48		6.0	24.3
194	107	Body Shop†	148		2.2	8.8
596	465	Bootst	576	+ 10	3.8	15.9
54	18	Brown & Jackson	23	- 1		
272	205	Brown (N)	266		2.4	20.3
128	66	Burton	127		2.2	25.6
150	90	Cantors	115		3.3	19.9
400	235	Carpetright	397	- ½	3.3	23.7
219	132	Christies Int	203		1.4	34.5
480	380	Church	380		4.5	15.8
108	67	Clinton Cards	102		6.0	12.8
140	84	C'ity Chemist	137½		4.9	
813	708	Courts Furntr	738		1.1	31.5
220	183	Crown Eye	195		6.7	8.0
383	238	DFS Furniture†	361	- 1	2.7	23.0
425	188	Dixons Gp	415	+ 2	2.2	25.1
580	580	Elys (Wimbldn)	580		3.9	36.9
11½	5½	ERA Gp	8½			14.7
161	77	Essex Furnt	112		4.8	
236	147	Etam	172	- 1	4.6	
460	320	Fine Art Dev	396		4.8	12.1
66	37	Fired Earth	66		1.9	23.8
142	81	Flying Flowers	141		1.9	18.4
295	183	French Conn	183			11.9
269¼	193	Frost Group	193		4.1	16.2
81	46	Gieves	80		3.1	18.1
212	112	Goldsmiths Gpt	209	- 1	2.0	19.0
640	508	GUS	615	- 1	3.0	16.7
340	179	Hamleys	339		2.8	15.1
73	25	Hampden Grp	73		2.6	13.1
175	135	Hse of Fraser	162		4.1	21.5
83	57	Hughes (TJ)t	59		5.6	13.0
168	96	Innovations	147		1.3	74.4
514	323	JJB Sports	512		1.5	23.9
544	379	Kingfisher	522	+ 4	3.7	17.4
151	100	Kingsbury Grp	151		2.0	21.3
365	208	Liberty	313		2.9	29.2
306	184	Lloyds Chemt	266	- 2	4.8	10.0
165	108	MFI	158	+ ½	3.4	20.7
457	371	Marks Spencert	439	- 5	3.0	19.0
645	500	Menzies (John)	626		2.6	14.0
580	328	Moss Bros	579		3.0	16.9
458	252	Next	446		2.8	24.6
54	27	OEM	39	- 2		
96	34	Olives (G)	41			
340	243	Ortmans	340		3.0	45.7
83	70	Partridge Fine	71		4.1	13.6
156	49	QS Hldgst	49		5.8	9.8
17½	5½	Rhino Grp▲	15½		13.2	12.8
183	113	Ratners	192		3.2	22.2
130½	95½	Sears†	101	+ 1	4.9	16.1
24	11½	Signet Group	15	+ ½		
484	321	Smith WH	423	- 11	4.6	14.9
850	838	Sotheby†	905		1.7	
349	309	Storehouse	342	+ 13	2.4	20.9
140	112	Stylo	120		4.9	10.3
203	143	T & S Stores	185	- ½	4.5	11.7
164	98	The Rack	163		2.1	17.0
4½	1	Upton & South	3			
598	424	Vendome	554	- 1	2.3	20.0
35	14	WEW Group	27		5.1	
67	35	Wkd of Leather	53		3.5	64.1
191	155	Wyevale	191		3.4	17.0

SPIRITS, WINES & CIDERS

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
566	476½	Allied Domecq	511	+ 1	5.9	20.1
499½	390	Bulmer (HP)	434	+ 1	3.0	16.7
146	98	Burn Stewart	144		4.3	31.0
461½	352	[illegible]	439	- 3	4.3	15.1
536	404	Guinness	460	- 2	3.8	14.3
445	337	Highland Dist	357		2.8	15.9
217	175	Macallan-Glen	197	- 7	0.8	43.7
710	600	Macdn Mrtn 'A'	645		2.1	18.1
681	532	Matthew Clark	654		4.0	
140	61	Merrydown W	125	- 2	2.0	
259	129	Taunton Cider	246		3.6	24.0

SUPPORT SERVICES

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
945	620	ADT	903	- 2		
41	32	Alphameric	38		1.1	21.0
74	78	Asto Sec	24			7.3
145	101½	BET Ordt	127	+ 1	4.1	12.7
178	129	BNB Res	129		5.6	10.1
293	220	BPP	280		4.6	16.2
189	131	BSM	150		5.5	11.4
9¼	0¾	Black & Edge	9			
1150	500	Borland	1087½			
215	105	Brit Data Mgt	130		5.2	29.8
96	59	Brooks Service	84	- 1	3.7	18.6
121	75	CRT Gpt	120		3.9	19.0
281	138	Capita Group	274		1.8	25.3
100	16	Cardinal Bus	21½	+ 1½		
359	277½	Chubb Sec	324			
94	58¾	Corp Services	90	+ 3	2.8	17.2
61	48	Coutts Cnslig	51	- 3	4.2	15.4
102	65	DCS Gpt	83		4.5	
256	204	Davis Service	217	+ 9½	2.3	23.3
358	223	Delphi	324		5.0	12.8
107	66	Dudley Jenkins	99		1.4	40.1
94	28	EW Fact	49		4.3	15.2
183	118	El Data Prc	155		7.6	6.8
403	280	Hays	374	- 4	1.6	16.1
218	145	Hogg Robinsn	207	+ 2	2.3	20.0
2031¼	1268¾	ISS B Dk	1400		4.9	12.9
415	152	JBA Hldgst	415	+ 8	1.8	12.4
279	222	Johnson Clean	240		1.1	43.6
111	80	Kalamazoo	98	+ 4	5.6	13.6
345	230	Kewill Sys	330		5.0	9.7
27	11	Laser-Scan	19		2.6	11.5
387	77	LBMS	317			
503	301	Logica	475	+ 8	1.6	22.1
107	49	MDIS	69	- 1	9.3	15.1
253	180	MMT Compt	245		3.2	
128	54	MR Data Mngt	74		6.0	52.6
478	368	Macro 4	413		6.7	11.2
2140¾	1553½	Manpowert	1781½	- 50	0.5	
840	553	Micro Focus	593			
179	102	Microgen	175		5.2	15.0
635	305	Misys	598	+ 4	1.9	17.0
289	197	MITIE Gp	289		1.3	23.7
36	22	Novo Group	34	+ 3	3.3	10.9
25	15	OIS Intl	19		2.0	
32	18	Ottss	28		2.3	15.5
163	74	P & P	157		2.2	16.0
175	110	Michael Page	156	- 1	2.6	17.4
175	106	Parity	171		1.5	20.9
245	138	Pegasus	220		2.8	15.8
110	75	Penna	79	+ 2	1.6	
73	18	Proudfoot	23½		10.6	
305	200	RCO	204		9.8	8.1
60	33	Radius	56		2.6	15.5
202	150	Real Time	178		3.2	8.9
144	98	Reed Executive	106		2.4	12.1
235	142	Reliance Sec	215		3.4	20.3
335½	212½	Rentokil	322	- 1	1.4	24.9
163	135	Ricardo Group	146	- 1	5.4	16.2
293	158	Rolfe & Nolan	268		1.9	39.9
287½	132½	Sage Gp	275		1.0	22.7
291	229	Salvesen (C)	260		4.1	12.9
143	79	Sanderson Elec	143		3.3	
17½	11¼	Select App	17			30.1
546	380	Serna Gp	537		1.0	25.6
380	238	Serco Gp	370	- 1	1.4	29.0
188	80	Shorwel Cmp	177		1.6	
143	85	Shelchley	129		3.4	16.7
16	11	Standard Ptd	16			
220	167	Stat-Plus	205		6.1	18.8
890	116	Unipalm	775	+ 25		
24½	11½	Vistect	24½		2.7	
295	245	Warner Howrdt	245		4.3	11.6

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
415½	354¾	BT	382	+ 4½	5.9	13.5
475	350½	Cable Wireless	460	+ 6	2.5	19.4
209	165½	General Cable	194½	+ 2½		
147	116½	NYNEX Cable	129	+ ½		
1765	1475	Securicor	1708		0.3	37.4
1100	900	Securicor A	935		0.5	30.5
1058	728	Security Serv	923		0.9	23.8
195	161	TeleWest	169	+ 4		
285½	177½	Vodafonet	233½	- ½	2.0	28.7

TEXTILES & APPAREL

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
80	50	Albion	50		6.0	2.7
180	115	Alexdra Wt	177		4.4	18.4
259	213	Allied Text	229	+ 2	3.8	13.4
111	72	Allims	109		9.3	20.1
34	26	Automagict	26			6.6
246	187	Baird (Wm)t	189	- 1	6.2	13.4
60	36	Beckman (A)	59		5.3	
288	229	Black (Peter)	272	- 1	2.3	17.4
161	121	Bridport-Gndryt	161		2.8	19.4
213	172	Br Mohair	173		6.5	10.8
28	14	Campari	27			
185	62	Chamb Phpps	62		16.1	2.9
342	281	Claremont Gat	299	- 1	3.9	14.4
221	166	Coats Viyella†	179		6.1	12.0
512	390	Courtauld Txtl	416	- 1	4.6	12.0
144	113	Dawson	144	+ 18	5.2	8.0
129	92½	Dawson	113		3.4	
194	129½	Dewhirst (IJ)	183		2.6	17.6
41	30	Dinion Heeft	32		5.5	3.1
38	25	Drummond	29		3.2	9.2
26	13	Ebiet	19			
67	23	Faupel	28		17.2	5.4
470	360	FII	450	+ 15	4.1	
153	146	Forminster	152		2.7	11.8
21	14	Foster (John)	14	- 1		
95	69	French	69		6.6	14.1
103	73	Gent SR	94		3.3	8.6
128	85	Haggas	127		3.0	
18¾	7¼	Hartstone	14		2.9	43.5
27	15	Helene Pict	15		11.2	6.6
303	213	Hickng Pntcst	296	+ 1	2.5	19.4
26	15	Hollas	15½		4.5	
71	29	Honeysucklet	36	+ 1	7.5	8.3
133	80	Horace Small	89½		7.2	
218	178	Jacques Vert	182		4.6	8.4
79	56	Jerome (S)	74½	+ 1½	2.9	7.5
455	327	Jones Stroud	433		2.9	16.1
157	118	Lambert	138	- 2	6.4	10.6
357	215	Lamont†	250		6.4	9.9
306	241	Leeds	249		3.2	12.9
73	42	Leslie Wise Gp	48	+ 2	11.1	7.9
84	57	Lyles (S)	57			
29½	23½	Marling	24	- 1	3.4	12.9
10	4½	PEX	8½	+ 1		
210	135	Parkland	184	+ 1	3.8	7.9
147	102	Pentland	113		3.5	16.3
73	41	Pittards	49		3.2	
78½	58¾	Readicut	70		8.1	18.6
81	61	Renmore	68	+ ½	6.4	7.1
56	40	Richards	40		6.2	15.0
76	50	SEET	64			
124	75	Sherwood Gp	113		3.7	13.6
142	92	Shiloh†	106		4.4	7.0
107	80	Sirdar	91		7.5	24.5
56	44	Stirling Gp	45	+ 1	5.7	9.8
21	13	Strong & Fisher	19		7.9	19.1
30	18	UK Safety†	19		15.5	23.6
186	114	Usher (Frank)	177		7.1	9.0
148	96	Wensum	143	+ 19	3.9	14.0
335	244	Yorklyde†	335		2.8	11.8

TRANSPORT

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
119	61	Air London†	118	+ 3	4.2	
768½	586	All Nippon Air	654½	+ 4	0.3	
320	262	Assoc Br Ports	288	+ 3	2.8	17.2
546	414	BAAt	499	+ 8	2.6	16.9
484	348	Br Airwayst	457	- 3	3.5	11.4
51	17	Central Trans R	17			
123	93	Clarkson (H)	106	+ 1	2.9	17.3
193	153	Clydeport	168		3.6	15.5
212	142	Dart	205	+ 1	3.1	12.9
324	76¼	Eurotunnel Uts	92	- 3		
154	131	FirstBus	143		3.9	
80	50	Fisher (James)	80		2.3	16.7
625	405	Forth Ports	615		2.3	20.5
305	166	Go-Ahead	302		2.0	11.2
273	205	Goode Durant	253		3.6	12.4
138	100	Jaid Steam	110		5.0	26.5
548	393	Irish Cont	478		1.0	11.9
70	52	Jacobs	63		2.1	
107	67	Lon O'Seas Frts	83		0.8	16.7
485	358	Mersey Docks	427	- 1	3.2	16.3
188	142½	NFCt	152		5.8	15.8
422	289	Nat Express	368		3.1	14.5
385	261	Ocean Group	382	- 1	4.7	23.4
94	68	Ocean Wilson	90		5.9	3.5
637	459	P & O Dfd	484	- 2	7.9	12.9
211	167	P & O 5.5%	180	- 2	3.8	
89	55	Seacon	63		4.5	35.8
236	158	Servisair	235		2.0	32.2
283	196	Stagecoach	283		2.6	18.4
118	79	TNT	89	- 1		
713	403	Tibbet & Britn	410		4.9	13.3
341	184	TDG	192		6.2	12.7
128	70	Upland▼	70	- 2	3.7	11.6
113	77	Utd Carriers	87		7.0	16.5

WATER

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
603	443	Anglian†	594	+ 3	5.7	9.1
366	295	Mid Kent Hdgs	359	+ 1	4.8	9.5
641	467¾	North West▼	596	- 1	5.6	7.6
1175	676	Northumbrnt	1169		3.2	9.1
685	475	Severn Trent	670	- 1	5.6	8.0
2305	1855	South Staff†	2230		3.9	13.3
555	459	South West	497	- 1	7.2	6.8
731	517	Southern	668		4.8	8.6
575	456	Thames†	555	+ 2	5.9	7.6
800	592½	Welsh	687	- 2	7.8	8.0
108½	100½	Welsh Crp Pf	108		9.5	
361	256¼	Wessex	339	+ 1	4.9	8.5
677½	472	Yorkshire	614	+ 8	5.9	7.9

Source: Fastel

© USM; # Price at suspension; † Ex dividend; ‡ Ex scrip; ▲ Ex rights issue; ▼ Ex all; § Ex capital distribution; * Figures or report awaited; ¶ No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index.

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BRITISH FUNDS

1995 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
SHORTS (under 5 years)						
108⅞	101	Treas 14% 1996	101		13.86	
109¾	103	Treas 15¼% 1996	103		14.71	6.43
107¾	103¼	Exch 13¼% 1996	103¼		12.85	6.23
104	102	Conv 10% 1996	103½		9.88	6.20
101	97¼	Treas 7% 1997	101	+	6.92	6.09
109	107	Treas 13¼% 1997	107¼		12.31	6.18
105	104	Exch 10½% 1997	104	+	10.00	6.13
104	100	Treas 8¾% 1997	104	+	8.41	6.11
117	114	Exch 15% 1997	115		13.01	6.20
107	102¼	Exch 9¾% 1998	106¼	+	9.14	6.27
101	96	Treas 7¼% 1998	101	+	7.12	6.32
100¼	94	Treas 6¾% 1995-98	100		8.74	6.36
117¾	114	Treas 14% 1998-01	116	+	11.98	7.02
124¼	120¼	Treas 15½% 1998	122	+	12.62	6.74
114¼	108	Exch 12% 1998	114	+	10.48	6.51
108	100¼	Treas 9½% 1999	108	+	8.80	6.57
116¼	111	Exch 12¼% 1999	116	+	10.53	6.59
111	105	Treas 10½% 1999	111	+	9.41	6.66
97	89	Treas 6% 1999	97¼	+ ¼	8.14	6.69
111	105½	Conv 10¼% 1999	111	+ ¼	9.17	6.69
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)						
107	100	Conv 9% 2000	107¼	+ ¼	8.34	6.86
104	96	Treas 8% 2000	104¼	+ ¼	7.64	6.80
123	117	Treas 13% 2000	123	+ ¼	10.51	6.83
112	104	Treas 10% 2001	112	+	8.86	7.05
99	90	Treas 7% 2001	99	+	7.02	6.91
113	103	Treas 9¾% 2002	113	+ ¼	8.62	6.49
104	94¼	Treas 8% 2003	104	+	7.89	7.24
115	105¼	Treas 10% 2003	115	+ ¼	8.66	7.38
118	110	Treas 11½% 2001-04	118	+	9.68	7.17
82	70½	Fund 3½% 1999-04	81	+	4.27	6.22
112¼	103	Conv 9½% 2004	112	+ ¼	8.42	7.49
95½	86	Treas 6¾% 2004	95	+	7.10	7.51
106¼	97¼	Treas 8½% 2005	106	+	7.96	7.52
112	103½	Conv 9½% 2005	112¼	+	8.42	7.56
129	119	Treas 12½% 2003-05	129¼	+	9.62	7.46
99	94	Treas 7¾% 2006	99 xd	+ ¼	7.52	7.54
101	92¼	Treas 7¾% 2006	101	+	7.67	7.60
103	93¼	Treas 8% 2002-06	103	+ ¼	7.74	7.57
123	113	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	123	+	9.50	7.40
106	97	Treas 8½% 2007	106	+	7.97	7.63
138¼	126	Treas 13½% 2004-08	136	+ ¼	9.87	7.47
110	101¼	Treas 9% 2008	110	+	8.13	7.68
102	94	Treas 8% 2009	102	+ ¼	7.80	7.71
LONGS (over 15 years)						
86	79	Treas 6¼% 2010	86	+	7.22	7.78
111	101	Conv 9% 2011	110	+	8.11	7.77
111	102	Treas 9% 2012	111	+	8.08	7.77
81	72¼	Treas 5½% 2008-12	81	+	6.74	7.48
102	93	Treas 8% 2013	102	+ ¼	7.83	7.78
99	91	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	99¼	+	7.78	7.77
102	93	Treas 8% 2015	102 xd	+	7.80	7.74
110	100	Treas 8¾% 2017	109	+	7.98	7.78
149¼	127	Exch 12% 2013-17	138 xd	+	8.59	7.83
UNDATED						
45	40	War Ln 3½%	44 xd	-	7.83	
31¼	28¼	Treas 2½%	31	...	8.05	
50	45½	Consols 4%	49	+	8.01	..
INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:					10%	5%
215	201	Treas IL 2% 1996	215	+ ½	.	1.82
112	106	Treas IL 4⅝% 1998	112	+	1.57	2.72
177	165	Treas IL 2½% 2001	177¼	+ ¼	2.88	3.37
173	161	Treas IL 2½% 2003	173	+ ¼	3.05	3.43
115	108	Treas IL 4⅜% 2004	115	+ ¼	3.09	3.44
183	168	Treas IL 2% 2006	182	+ ¼	3.19	3.46
165	152	Treas IL 2½% 2009	165	+ ¼	3.25	3.48
172	157	Treas IL 2½% 2011	172	+	3.39	3.49
141¼	129	Treas IL 2½% 2013	141	+	3.33	3.51
151	137¼	Treas IL 2½% 2016	151¼	+ ¼	3.38	3.55
145	131	Treas IL 2½% 2020	145	+	3.44	3.58
121	109¼	Treas IL 2½% 2024	121	+ ¼	3.43	3.58
119	108	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	119	+ ¼	3.43	3.57

Rugby reluctant to tackle new sums that do not add up

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

WITHIN a few short months rugby union's professional market place has established certain benchmarks. The going rate for an international in the southern hemisphere is £100,000-plus per annum, though considerably more if your name happens to be Lomu. In the north it will be half that figure, or less.

Want to buy a club? Why not, they are all up for grabs in the knowledge that professional rugby cannot be sustained from gate receipts alone. Director of rugby is worth an annual six-figure sum if your name is Andrew, though no onein the first division will earn that much.

And to run the whole shooting match? The chief executive of the International Rugby Football Board, whose post was advertised this week, will get £80,000, plus benefits, the latter to include the privilege of explaining to the world's media why the game can be amateur in one country and professional in another, why the laws appear to mean one thing in the north and another in the south, and whether in the new millennium there will be only one code of rugby.

Not that the successful candidate can be sure where he will be working. The advertisement coyly states: "European location (to be decided)", the result of pressure from the southern hemisphere for the removal of the existing headquarters at Bristol to some more cosmopolitan, less obviously British, and tax-free haven.

So many different areas of the game willing to adopt professionalism yet without the means ... so many more yearning for a simpler time when club loyalty was the strongest bond and the only money involved was the players' match subscriptions. So in this mix-and-match of a season we can sample what was and what will be: today a traditional fixture between an English division and a touring team; on Wednesday the participation in England squad training of 14 young hopefuls who perceive a paid future.

At least there is the certainty that the Western Samoans will bring an exotic dash of skill to their tour matches and old-fashioned morality from their captain, Pat Lam. "I have a wife and two young kids but playing for Manu Samoa is more than just money," he said. "You have to see what it means to people back in Samoa when we play rugby."

The Samoans summon 11 of their international side to the meeting at Leicester with the Midlands, the divisional champions of England.

London retain only six of those beaten by the Samoans on Wednesday for their match with the South West at London Irish, which will decide the destiny of the wooden spoon in the CIS divisional championship. The South West, likewise seeking their first divisional success of the season, introduce Fraser Waters, the Bristol University centre who is among the additions (12 of them uncapped) to the England training party next Wednesday.

Swansea face a difficult four days, in that they play Llanelli in the Heineken League at Stradey Park today and on Tuesday entertain Castres in the Heineken Cup.

ENGLAND SQUAD ADDITIONS: T Stimpson (West Hartlepool), F Waters (Bristol University), A Blyth (West Hartlepool), J Sleightholme (Bath), N Greenstock (Wasps), P Grayson (Northampton), A Gomarsall (Wasps), M Volland (Northampton), W Green (Wasps), N McCarthy (Bath), G Archer (Bristol), R West (Gloucester), A Diprose (Saracens), S Ojomoh (Bath)
MIDLAND DIVISION: J Quantrill (Rugby Lions); R Subbiani (Bedford), M Allen (Northampton), B Whetstone (Bedford), H Thorneycroft (Northampton); P Grayson (Northampton), M Dawson (Northampton); G Rowntree (Leicester), R Cockerill (Leicester), D Garforth (Leicester), T Rodber (Northampton, captain), J Phillips (Northampton), M Bayfield (Northampton), N Back (Leicester), C Tarbuck (Leicester).
WESTERN SAMOANS: H Patu, B Lima, M Vaega, K Tuigamala, A Telea, D Kellett, J Filemu, M Mika, O Matauiau, P Fatialofa, S Smith, M Birtwhistle, L Falaniko, S Vaifale, P Lam (captain)



Bernard Langer drives at the 6th yesterday in the second round of the Million Dollar Challenge at Sun City, where he lies joint second with Tom Lehman and Corey Pavin, of the United States. They are three shots behind Nick Price, the world No 2, who played an outstanding round of 67. Langer, who returned a 69, was the only other player to break 70 as the fierce rough exacted a heavy toll. "I hit my irons as well as I ever hit them — the right distance, the right shape," Price said. "I played about as well as I can play in that department." Sam Torrance, who shared the lead with Pavin after the first round, was a stroke behind Langer, Lehman and Pavin after scoring a 73, but remains in contention, which is more than can be said for Nick Faldo and Colin Montgomerie. Faldo's 78, his worst round of the year, included two sevens in an outward half of 45. He put two balls in the lake at the par-three 4th. Montgomerie's 76 left him in last place in the 12-strong field, 17 shots behind Price.

Dellor helps to protect England's interests



SIMON BARNES

On Saturday

WHAT is the connection between Alec Stewart's much-abused fingers, Ralph Dellor's egg-poacher and the England women's hockey goalie? No, don't even try and come up with an answer. This is a family newspaper, and besides, as ever, the truth is still more startling. Ralph Dellor, the cricket person, has put his mind to the pandemic of broken fingers among batters, and developed a protective device for the two most vulnerable fingers, the index and middle fingers of the bottom hand. Stewart, whose fingers have located the ball with fair frequency in recent seasons, heard about these shortly before the tour party left for South Africa. So he put in a last-second order. For five pairs.

Dellor makes the things up himself, from a special goo called Hexalite, which was supplied to him by the England physio, Wayne Morton. And so he did the job in his own kitchen, on his egg-poacher, each one taking an hour. It is nice to hear that Heath Robinson lives, and that the devices seem to work. And yes, Jo Thompson, the hockey goalie, is another satisfied customer. Gray-Nicolls, the cricket equipment people, plan to put it their catalogue for 1997.

Sole search

David Sole, the former Scottish rugby captain and now forwards coach at Edinburgh Academicals, failed to turn up for a disciplinary hearing after he had described a ref's performance as "tantamount to cheating". He explained that he was unable to come, because he was baby-sitting.

Base rate

The great balloon of sports has been pricked; you read it here first. The early-warning sign of global satiation has at last been spotted by this column. The terminal decline of a sport has begun. Yes, the average salary of major league baseball players has fallen, the first substantial fall in 30 years. Mind you, the chaps aren't quite on the breadline yet — the payment for a year's baseball has fallen from $1,168,263 a year in 1994 to $1,110,766 (£725,000) this year.

Parent power

Do you want to know which sportsman is hot? Then keep an eye on his partner. Is she pregnant? Is there a child? Is it a boy? If so, then plunge to the hilt. For Keith Elliott has recently retired as head of the short-course unit at Liverpool Business School to "pursue his interest in positive thinking". And with an interest such as that, it is hardly surprising to learn that he claims that fatherhood enhances sporting performance. Paul Ince's form improved when Thomas was born.



Steve Davis won ten successive matches after the birth of his child. Boris Becker says that a flood of success followed the birth of Noah. John Daly won the Open after the birth of a daughter. "A serious factor to be taken into account by golfing punters," Elliott says.

Expensive hug

Phillie Phanatic, the cuddly, lovable, sickbag-friendly mascot of the Philadelphia Phillies baseball team, has just had the pants sued off him. He has been successfully sued for $128,000 (£83,000) by a retired bus-driver called Carl Seidel. Seidel brought the case against the baseball club after he had attended a charity carnival in northwest Philadelphia in 1991. There he suffered the ill-fated encounter with Phillie. Seidel, now 72, was approached by Phillie and, despite his protests, received a vigorous hug, as a result of which he sustained a permanent back injury.

Schott in dark

Marge Schott, owner of the Cincinnati Reds baseball team and old friend of this column, has been at it again. The lady is so mean that she has been cutting down on essential staff, including assistant manager. That did not stop her manager, Davy Johnson, from taking on John Stearns as his No 2. He kitted Stearns out in a uniform that bore neither number nor name, to keep his identity quiet from Schott. She walked past Stearns every day, and had no idea who he was. But she eventually found out, by sacking Johnson as coach for the heinous crime of sleeping with his fiancée. Johnson was at once snapped up by Baltimore Orioles, and he took Stearns with him.

Outnumbered

And so to Magic Numbers again. I have a letter imploring me to set aside my aversion to golf in order to include the magical 14½ among the year's collection of the glorious numbers in sport. Well, why not? Every chance that this figure, glowing with the undying glory of the Ryder Cup, will be included. But there are still vacancies, and more blissful bottles of champagne will reward the senders. The guillotine falls in two weeks; get them to me now.

Rendle retains competitive urge

ALTHOUGH Great Britain's judo fighters are still reeling from a lack of success at the world championships in Japan two months ago, five have already qualified for the Olympic Games in Atlanta next year (John Goodbody writes). Only one of those, Sharon Rendle, who won Britain's sole medal in Japan, will be competing in the national closed championships in Bangor, Northern Ireland, today.

The other four, including Ray Stevens and Kate Howey, the light-heavyweights who won Olympic medals in Barcelona in 1992, are concentrating on training, and will also miss the Swiss Open in Basle this weekend, the stage for most of those Britons who hope to qualify for the Games through a series of tournaments across Europe over the next six months.

The team in Switzerland includes Nicola Fairbrother, the European lightweight champion, who lost her world title in Tokyo. "That defeat has really motivated me," she said yesterday. "I wanted to win in Japan, but you have got to be really desperate for it. The hunger to win has come back and I am really knuckling down again."

The outstanding clash in Bangor is likely to at featherweight, where Rendle, an Olympic "champion" in 1988, when women's judo was a demonstration sport, could meet Debbie Allan, who placed third in the European championships last year.

COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
** denotes all-ticket*
Pools coupon numbers in brackets

FA Carling Premiership
(1) Aston Villa v Arsenal
(2) Blackburn v West Ham
(3) Bolton v Nottingham Forest
(4) Leeds v Man City
(5) Liverpool v Southampton
(6) Man Utd v Chelsea
(7) QPR v Middlesbrough
(8) Tottenham v Everton

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newcastle	15	12	2	1	33	11	38
Man Utd	15	10	3	2	32	14	33
Arsenal	15	8	4	3	21	10	28
A Villa	15	8	3	4	19	11	27
Tottenham	15	7	5	3	22	17	26
Middlsboro	15	7	5	3	14	9	26
Nottm F	14	6	7	1	24	21	25
Liverpool	15	7	3	5	27	14	24
Leeds	14	7	3	4	20	16	24
West Ham	15	5	5	5	15	16	20
Chelsea	15	5	5	5	14	17	20
Everton	15	5	4	6	19	19	19
Blackburn	15	5	3	7	23	17	18
Southampton	15	4	3	8	15	25	15
Sheff Wed	15	3	5	7	14	20	14
Wimbledon	15	3	3	9	19	33	12
Man City	15	3	3	9	7	22	12
QPR	15	3	2	10	11	23	11
Coventry	15	1	6	8	14	32	9
Bolton	15	2	2	11	14	30	8

Endsleigh Insurance League
First division
(9) Derby v Sheffield Utd
(10) Grimsby v Charlton
(11) Leicester v Barnsley
(12) Luton v Tranmere
(13) Millwall v Watford
(14) Norwich v Stoke
(15) Port Vale v Huddersfield
(16) Portsmouth v Oldham
(17) Reading v West Bromwich
(18) Southend v Birmingham

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Millwall	19	9	7	3	23	17	34
Norwich	19	9	6	4	30	20	33
Grimsby	19	9	6	4	23	19	33
Leicester	19	9	5	5	31	26	32
Birmingham	19	8	7	4	30	22	31
Sundrland	18	8	7	3	21	15	31
Tranmere	17	8	6	3	29	16	30
Huddersfld	19	8	5	6	26	25	29
Stoke	19	7	7	5	29	24	28
Derby	19	7	7	5	26	24	28
Barnsley	19	7	6	6	24	30	27
Charlton	19	6	9	4	23	19	27
Oldham	19	6	8	5	27	22	26
Ipswich	19	6	6	7	32	30	24
West Brom	19	7	3	9	23	27	24
Southend	19	6	6	7	19	24	24
C Palace	18	5	7	6	20	23	22
Reading	19	4	8	7	21	25	20
Sheff Utd	19	5	3	11	25	33	18
Wolvrhmptn	19	4	6	9	22	28	18
Watford	19	3	8	8	22	28	17
Portsmth	19	3	7	9	26	34	16
Luton	19	3	6	10	12	25	15
Port Vale	19	2	8	9	20	28	14

Second division
(—) Burnley v Carlisle
(—) Swansea v Rotherham

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Swindon	18	11	5	2	33	14	38
Notts Co	18	10	5	3	30	16	35
Crewe	17	10	4	3	34	18	34
Chestrfld	18	9	3	6	27	19	30
Wycombe	18	7	8	3	27	20	29
Blackpool	18	8	5	5	25	19	29
Wrexham	18	7	7	4	30	22	28
Burnley	18	7	6	5	27	23	27
Shrwsbury	18	8	2	8	26	25	26
Stockport	18	6	8	4	22	16	26
Bradford	18	7	4	7	25	28	25
Oxford Utd	18	6	7	5	22	19	25
Bournemth	18	7	4	7	19	22	25
Peterboro	18	5	7	6	25	28	22
Bristol R	18	6	4	8	19	29	22
York	18	6	3	9	23	29	21
Walsall	18	5	6	7	20	17	21
Bristol City	17	5	6	6	17	22	21
Rotherham	18	5	5	8	23	32	20
Swansea	18	4	7	7	18	26	19
Carlisle	18	4	6	8	21	28	18
Brentford	18	5	3	10	14	24	18
Brighton	18	3	3	12	14	32	12
Hull	18	1	8	9	13	27	11

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Accrington Stanley v Hyde; Boston v Bamber Bridge; Buxton v Winsford; Chorley v Droylsden; Emley v Guiseley; Frickley v Witton; Gainsborough v Bishop Auckland; Matlock v Marine, Spennymoor v Leek. First division: Alfreton v Radcliffe; Ashton United v Lancaster; Atherton L R v Congleton; Eastwood Town v Curzon Ashton; Farsley Celtic v Gretna, Fleetwood v Leigh; Lincoln United v Great Harwood; Netherfield v Bradford Park Avenue; Warrington v Whitley Bay; Workington v Harrogate Town.
LEAGUE OF WALES: Aberystwyth v Conwy (2.30); Bangor City v Inter Cardiff; Briton Ferry v Llansantffraid, Caernarfon v Ton Pentre, Cemaes Bay v Holywell; Cwmbran v Connah's Quay; Flint Town v Caersws, Newtown v Porthmadog; Rhyl v Llanelli

Third division
(—) Doncaster v Exeter

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chester	18	11	4	3	37	20	37
Gillingham	18	10	6	2	25	6	36
Preston	18	9	8	1	41	18	35
Rochdale	18	8	5	5	32	20	29
Plymouth	18	8	5	5	31	21	29
Colchester	18	7	6	5	28	23	27
Bury	18	7	6	5	23	25	27
Darlington	18	6	8	4	19	17	26
Doncaster	18	7	5	6	19	25	26
Wigan	18	6	7	5	23	21	25
Cambs Utd	18	6	5	7	29	31	23
L Orient	18	6	5	7	21	25	23
Scunthrpe	18	5	7	6	26	22	22
Exeter	18	4	9	5	18	23	21
Mansfield	18	4	8	6	28	38	20
Hereford	18	4	8	6	21	23	20
Barnet	18	4	8	6	19	24	20
Cardiff	18	5	5	8	18	19	20
Northmptn	18	5	5	8	18	19	20
Fulham	18	3	10	5	22	22	19
Scarboro	18	4	7	7	21	28	19
Hartlpool	18	4	7	7	16	28	19
Lincoln	18	4	5	9	17	33	17
Torquay	18	2	5	11	17	40	11

FA Cup
Second round
(19) * Barrow v Wigan
(20) Blackpool v Colwyn Bay
(—) Bournemouth v Brentford
(—) Bradford v Preston (5.0)
(21) * Cinderford Town v Gravesend and Northfleet
(—) Crewe v Mansfield
(—) Enfield v Woking
(22) Fulham v Brighton
(—) Gillingham v Hitchin
(—) Hereford v Sutton United
(24) Oxford Utd v Northampton
(25) Peterborough v Bognor Regis
(26) Rochdale v Darlington
(27) Scunthorpe v Shrewsbury
(28) Stockport v Blyth Spartans
(29) * Swindon v Cardiff
(30) Telford v Notts County
(31) Torquay v Walsall
(23) Wrexham v Chesterfield

Vauxhall Conference
(—) Altrincham v Runcorn
(32) Dagenham and Red v Welling
(33) Dover v Kettering
(34) Gateshead v Hednesford
(35) Halifax v Bromsgrove
(—) Kidderminster v Bath
(36) Morecambe v Southport
(—) Northwich v Farnborough
(37) Stalybridge v Slough
(38) Stevenage v Macclesfield

Bell's Scottish League
Premier division
(39) Celtic v Kilmarnock
(40) Falkirk v Raith
(41) Hearts v Rangers
(42) Motherwell v Hibernian
(43) Partick v Aberdeen

First division
(44) Airdrie v St Johnstone
(45) Dundee Utd v Dumbarton
(46) Dunfermline v Hamilton
(47) Greenock Morton v Clydebank
(48) St Mirren v Dundee

Second division
(49) Ayr v Queen of South
(50) East Fife v Berwick
(51) Montrose v Stenhousemuir
(52) Stirling v Forfar
(53) Stranraer v Clyde

Third division
(54) Albion v Brechin
(55) Alloa v Queen's Park
(56) Arbroath v Cowdenbeath
(57) Caley This v East Stirling
(58) Livingston v Ross County

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Chelmsford v Cambridge City; Crawley v Rushden and Diamonds; Dorchester v Baldock; Gresley v Cheltenham; Halesowen v Hastings, Newport AFC v Burton; Salisbury v Atherstone; Stafford v Merthyr; Sudbury Town v Ilkeston; Worcester v Gloucester. Midland division: Bedworth v Redditch; Bury Town v Evesham; Corby v Leicester United; Grantham v Dudley Town; Kings Lynn v Sutton Coldfield; Moor Green v Bridgnorth; Nuneaton v Bilston; Paget R v Buckingham Town; Stourbridge v Rothwell, Tamworth v Hinckley Town. Southern division: Bashley v Weston-super-Mare; Braintree v Fareham; Clevedon v Fisher 93; Havant v Forest Green; Newport IoW v Ashford; Poole v Fleet Town; Sittingbourne v Yate, Tonbridge Angels v Waterlooville; Trowbridge v Erith and Belvedere; Witney v Weymouth.
LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Amersham v Corinthian-Casuals, Barkingside v Beaconsfield SYCOB, Brimsdown v Brook House; Cockfosters v Waltham Abbey, Hillingdon v Hanwell; Tottenham Omada v Tufnell Park: Willesden (Hawkeye) v Croydon. Intermediate Cup: Second round: Leyton County v Bridon Ropes

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bishop's Stortford v Boreham Wood; Chertsey v Grays; Dulwich v Yeading; Hayes v Aylesbury; Hendon v Molesey; St Albans v Carshalton; Walton and Hersham v Harrow; Worthing v Bromley. First division: Abingdon Town v Wembley; Aldershot Town v Uxbridge; Barton Rovers v Maidenhead United; Billericay v Tooting and Mitcham; Chesham v Heybridge Swifts; Leyton Pennant v Oxford City; Ruislip Manor v Barking; Staines v Berkhamsted; Thame v Wokingham; Whyteleafe v Marlow. Second division: Banstead v Bracknell; Canvey Island v Chalfont St Peter; Edgware v Hampton; Egham v Saffron Walden; Hemel Hempstead v Newbury; Hungerford v Wivenhoe, Leatherhead v Croydon, Metropolitan Police v Bedford Town, Tilbury v Dorking, Ware v Collier Row; Witham v Cheshunt. Third division: Camberley v Tring; Clapton v Horsham, Harlow v Cove; Hornchurch v Epsom and Ewell; Kingsbury v East Thurrock; Leighton v Wealdstone; Lewes v Harefield; Northwood v Aveley; Southall v Flackwell Heath; Windsor and Eton v Hertford.
ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Brentwood v Eton Manor; Concord v Stansted; East Ham v Ford United.
MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Arlesey Town v Harpenden; Hoddesdon v Biggleswade; Letchworth v Shillington; Milton Keynes v Brache Sparta; Royston v Potters Bar. Toddington v Langford; Welwyn Garden v Hatfield
GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Barnstaple v Frome; Calne v Bideford, Chippenham v Tiverton; Crediton v Paulton, Elmore v Odd Down; Torrington v Backwell; Westbury v Brislington
JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Cornard v Soham, Great Yarmouth v Haverhill; Harwich and Parkeston v Wroxham; Lowestoft v Newmarket; Watton v Felixstowe. League Cup: Second round: Clacton v Warboys; Histon v Ely; Stowmarket v March; Sudbury v Halstead; Tiptree v Chatteris; Wisbech v Woodbridge.
JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Aerostructures v Portsmouth; B A T v Gosport; Bemerton Heath v Swanage and Herston; Christchurch v Andover, Cowes Sports v Downton; East Cowes v Totton; Eastleigh v Ryde Sports; Petersfield v Bournemouth; Whitchurch v Thatcham.
UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Eastbourne Town v Peacehaven and Telscombe: Horsham YMCA v Crowborough; Langney Sports v Hassocks; Mile Oak v Whitehawk; Oakwood v Pagham, Portfield v Ringmer; Shoreham v Arundel; Stamco v Southwick, Wick v Three Bridges.
WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Corinthian v Crockenhill; Cray v Hythe; Ramsgate v Deal

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Almondsbury v Carterton; Banbury v Lambourn Sports; Highworth v Didcot; Kintbury v Abingdon United, Swindon Supermarine v North Leigh
HEREWARD SPORTS UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Boston v Northampton Spencer; Cogenhoe v Stamford; Eynesbury v Potton, Kempston v Long Buckby; Mirrlees Blackstone v Desborough; Raunds v Spalding, S and L Corby v Holbeach; Stotfold v Newport Pagnell; Wellingborough v Bourne
INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: Boldmere St M v Blakenhall; Chasetown v Shifnal Town; Hinckley Athletic v Shepshed D; Kynpersley V v Pershore Town, Oldbury U v Stratford Town; Sandwell v Stapenhill, West Midland Police v Rocester. Industrial Rewinds League Cup: Second round: Halesowen H v Willenhall.
ENDSLEIGH MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Ansells v Meir KA; Bloxwich v Alvechurch Villa, Coventry Sphinx v Chelmsley; Highgate v Massey Ferguson; Northfield v Shirley, Southam v Kings Heath; Studley B K L v West Midland Fire Service; Upton v Handrahan Timbers; Wellesbourne v Olton Royale
BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Bloxwich S v Stafford Town; Cradley Town v Malvern Town; Darlaston v Hill Top R; Ettingshall H T v Ludlow Town, Gornal A v Brierley Hill Town, Lichfield C v Stourport S; Lye Town v Pelsall V; Tividale v Wolverhampton C; Westfields v Wednesfield.
NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Belper Town v Hallam; Denaby v Liversedge: Glasshoughton Welfare v Armthorpe Welfare, Hatfield Main v Brigg; North Ferriby v Goole; Ossett Town v Ashfield. Pickering v Stocksbridge P S; Sheffield v Maltby M W; Thackley v Ossett Albion.
NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Bootle v Holker Old Boys; Burscough v Darwen, Chadderton v Flixton, Eastwood H v Newcastle Town; Maine Road v Rossendale; Nantwich v Clitheroe; Prescot v Blackpool Rovers; St Helens v Mossley; Salford v Kidsgrove, Skelmersdale v Penrith, Trafford v Glossop North End.
SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Ards v Portadown; Glenavon v Crusaders; Glentoran v Cliftonville, Linfield v Bangor. First division: Ballymena v Omagh; Carrick v Distillery, Coleraine v Ballyclare, Newry v Larne
BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Galway v Cork (7.0).
SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Arsenal v Portsmouth; Cambridge Utd v Queens Park Rangers; Charlton Ath v Millwall; Fulham v Norwich, Gillingham v Ipswich; Leyton Orient v Tottenham Hotspur; West Ham Utd v Southend

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Arthur Dunn Cup: Malvernians v Etonians. Premier division: Cholmeleians v Aldenhamians; Foresters v Chigwellians; Reptonians v Carthusians. First division: Bradfieldians v Wykehamists; Haileyburians v Brentwoods; Harrovians v Haberdashers
SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: Senior one: Old Grammarians v Parkfield; Southgate County v Hale End Athletic; Witan v Ulysses. Senior two: Corinthian-Casuals v City of London; Honourable Artillery Company v UCL Academicals; Wandsworth Borough v Old Bealonians
OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier division: Glyn v Old Isleworthians; Old Aloysians v Old Hamptonians; Old Ignatians v Clapham; Old Meadonians v Old Danes. Senior first division: Chertsey v Shene; Old Kingsburians v Old Manorians; Old Salvatorians v Old Tiffinians; Old Wilsonians v Old Suttonians. Senior second division: Old Camdenians v Enfield; Old Meadonians v Mill Hill City; Old Southallians v Old Minchendenians; Old Tollingtonians v Old Wokingians.
SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: First division: Carshalton v Old Esthameians; Civil Service v South Bank; Crouch End Vampires v West Wickham; National Westminster Bank v Old Actonians; Norsemen v East Barnet OG; Winchmore Hill v Kew Association. Second division: Alexandra Park v Old Lyonian; Lensbury v Lloyds Bank, Old Bromleians v Old Parmiterians; Old Latymerians v Barclays Bank; Polytechnic v Midland Bank. Third division: Brentham v Cuaco; Ibis v Old Westminster Citizens, Merton v Alleyn Old Boys; Reigate Priory v Broomfield; Southgate Olympic v Old Salesians
SCHOOLS MATCHES (10.30 unless stated): FA Premier League Under-18 Trophy: Middlesex v Essex. English Fuji Film Trophy: East Berks v North Avon (11.0); Woking v Worthing. English Eagles Trophy: South East Sussex v Canterbury (10.0). Shaw Cup: Ipswich v Peterborough. Oxford United Cup: Mid-Oxon v Vale of White Horse. London Hawk Trophy: Luton v Croydon. London Pear Trophy: Islington v Hackney; South London v North Kent. Kent Cup: Gravesham v Bexley: Dartford v Orpington: Dover v Medway. Southern Counties League: Aldershot v Bristol: Gosport v Oxford, South West Avon v Swindon; Southampton v Reading. Goodhand Trophy: East Riding v Nottingham; Hull v South Notts; Worksop v Mansfield. Yorkshire Trophy: Barnsley v Leeds. Wrennal Cup: Burnley v Rossendale. Snowdon Cup: Sefton v Mid-Cheshire. Welsh Shield: Cardiff v Ebbw Vale; Kirkby Knowsley v Clywd Coast. Inter-association: Manchester v Chester.

ATHLETICS

ALNWICK: European cross country championships.

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 2.30 unless stated

CIS series tour match
Midlands v Western Samoa XV (at Leicester, 3.0)

CIS divisional championship
London v South West (at London Irish RFC)

CIS county championship
Midlands
North Midlands v Staffordshire (at Stourbridge)
North
Cheshire v Durham (at Wilmslow, 2.15)
Cumbria v Yorkshire (at Aspatria, 2.15)
Northumberland v Lancashire (at Tynedale, 2.0)
South
Berkshire v Buckinghamshire (at Maidenhead, 2.15)
Devon v Hertfordshire (at Plymouth)
Oxfordshire v Gloucestershire (at Banbury)
Kent v Hampshire (at Blackheath)
Sussex v Middlesex (at Lewes, 2.15)
Cornwall v Eastern Counties (at Camborne)
Surrey v Somerset (at Imber Court, 2.15)

CIS under-21 county championship
North
Cheshire v Durham (at Altrincham Kersal, 2.15)
Northumberland v Lancashire (at Northern, 2.15)

PILKINGTON SHIELD: Fourth round: London and South East division: Battersea Ironsides v Barclays Bank; Deal Wanderers v Aylesford: Enfield Ignatians v London Nigerians; Folkestone v Tonbridge; Hadleigh v Thames; London French v Hayes; Old Ashmoleans v Old Haileyburian; Old Williamsonian v Dover; Sittingbourne v London Exiles, Whitstable v Billericay. Midland division: Bedford Swifts v Hope Valley; Berksall and Balsall Common v Spartans; Castle Donington v Wellingborough Old Grammarians; Erdington v Linley and Kidsgrove. Ledbury v Old Ashbeians; Nottinghamshire Constabulary v Yardley and District; Old Anselmians v Wednesbury; St Ives v Upton-on-Severn. Northern division: Ambleside v Shell Stanlow; Birchfield v Hullensians; Eccles v Marple, Huddersfield YMCA v Mosborough; Medicals v Leeds Corinthians; Old Rishworthian v North Shields; Sheffield Tigers v Newton-le-Willows. South and South West division: Bodmin v Tedley; Gloucestershire Constabulary v Old Centralians: Helston v Avon. Old Bristolians v Cainscross; Topsham v Broad Plain; Trowbridge v Perranporth; Westbury v Oakmedians.

Irish inter-provincial championship
Connacht v Ulster (at Galway)
Exiles v Leinster (at Sale, 3.0)

Heineken League
First division
Aberavon v Newport
Cardiff v Bridgend
Ebbw Vale v Pontypridd
Llanelli v Swansea
Neath v Treorchy
Newbridge v Abertillery
Second division
Abercynon v Cross Keys
Caerphilly v Llandovery
Llanharan v Pontypool
Maesteg v Dunvant
South Wales Police v Tenby Utd
Ystradgynlais v Bonymaen
THIRD DIVISION: Blaina v Tredegar; Builth Wells v Penarth; Glamorgan Wndrs v Mountain Ash; Narberth v Cardiff Inst; Pyle v Blackwood; Tondu v Kenfig Hill.

Tennents Premiership
First division
Melrose v Gala (2.0)
Stirling County v Boroughmuir (2.0)
Watsonians v Hawick (2.0)
SCOTTISH UNDER-18 DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP: Edinburgh v Glasgow (at Haddington, 2.0); North and Midlands v South (at RAF Kinloss, 2.0).

Club matches
Askeans v Maidstone
Bath v Nottingham (3.0)
Bedford v Wasps (3.0)
Berry Hill v Wolverhampton
Broughton Park v Old Brodleians
Camberley v Sutton and Epsom (2.15)
Cambridge Univ v Leicester (3.0)
Clifton v London Scottish (3.0)
Gloucester v Vaal Triangle (SA) (3.0)
Harlequins v London Irish (3.0)
Harrogate v Northern (2.15)
High Wycombe v Aylesbury
Lichfield v Derby (2.15)
London Welsh v Rosslyn Park (2.15)
Lydney v Blackheath (3.0)
Morley v Wakefield (3.0)
Moseley v Bristol (3.0)
Newcastle v Rotherham (3.0)
North Walsham v Thurrock (2.15)
Northampton v Loughborough Stu (3.0)
Orrell v Liverpool St Helens
Otley v Kendal (2.15)
Oxford Univ v Sydney Univ (3.0)
Preston G v Macclesfield (2.15)
Reading v Cheltenham (2.15)
Sandal v Wigton (2.15)
Saracens v Waterloo (2.15)
Sheffield v Fylde
Tabard v Old Verulamians
West Hartlepool v Hull Ionians (3.0)
Weston-super-Mare v Walsall (3.0)
Worcester v Exeter

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 2.0 unless stated

Silk Cut Challenge Cup
First round
Beverley v Bisons
Dudley Hill v Thatto Heath
Eastmoor v Upton and Frickley
Egremont v Hensingham
Hemel Hempstead v Worth Village
Heworth v Students RLOB (2.30)
Leigh Miners Welfare v Mysons
Lock Lane v Humberside Univ
Mayfield v Halton Simms Cross
Millom v Skirlaugh
Oldham St Annes v Underbank Rang
Saddleworth v Lowca
Thornhill v Blackbrook
West Hull v Durham Univ
Wigan St Patricks v Haydock

ICE HOCKEY

BENSON AND HEDGES ALL-STAR CHALLENGE: Great Britain v Import All Stars (Sheffield, 3.0).
BENSON AND HEDGES CUP: Final: Nottingham v Sheffield (Sheffield, 7.0)

LACROSSE

SHEPHERDS FRIENDLY SOCIETY LEAGUE: Premier division: Mellor v Cheadle, Heaton Mersey v Boardman and Eccles, Poynton v Cheadle Hulme; Stockport v Timperley; Old Waconians v Sheffield Steelers

VOLLEYBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Men: First division: Reebok Liverpool City v Tooting Aquila, KLEA Leeds v Sheffield, Warwick Riga v Wessex; Solent v Whitefield, Manchester Utd Salford v Polonia Ealing, Newcastle (Staffs) v Team Mizuno Malory Lewisham.

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Leicester v Thames Valley (7.30), Newcastle v Leopards (7.30); Birmingham v Hemel (7.30); Worthing v Derby (8.0)

HOCKEY

MEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Guildford v Surbiton (Kings Manor School 12.30); Hull v East Grinstead (Orchard Park 2.0); Indian Gymkhana v Cannock (Osterley 2.30); Old Loughtonians v Canterbury (Chigwell 1.30); Reading v Bournville (Sonning Lane 2.0); Southgate v Barford Tigers (Broomfield School 2.0); St Albans v Hounslow (Clarence Park 2.0); Stourport v Havant (Kidderminster School 1.30); Trojans v Teddington (Stoneham Lane 12.0). Second division: Blueharts v Brooklands (Hitchin Boys School 2.0); City of Portsmouth v Beeston (Alexandra Park 1.30), Doncaster v Bromley (Bennetthorpe 2.0); Edgbaston v Olton and West Warwickshire (Birmingham University 12.30); Gloucester City v Harleston Magpies (Plock Court 1.45), Oxford University v Crostyx (St Edward's School 12.30); Richmond v Isca (Teddington School 2.0); Sheffield v Hampstead and Westminster (Abbeydale Park 2.0); Slough v Firebrands (Wexham School 1.0)
NASTRO AZZURRO LEAGUE: Premier League: Ashford v High Wycombe; Beckenham v Newbury; Bournemouth v Chichester; Fareham v Anchorians; Gore Court v Old Kingstonians; Lewes v Lions; Maidenhead v Wokingham, Old Walcountians v Wimbledon; Oxford Hawks v Spencer; Winchester v Woking. Hampshire/Surrey: Blandford v Basingstoke; Camberley v Solent HC; Cheam v Walton and Weybridge; Dulwich v Purley; London University v Oxshott; Old Cranleighans v Southampton; Old Edwardians v Barnes; Old Whitgiftians v Epsom, Oxted v Old Mid. Whitgiftians; Petersfield v Andover. Kent/Sussex: Belvedere v Sevenoaks, Bexley Invicta v Tunbridge Wells, Blackheath v Worthing; Brighton v Bexleyheath; Crawley v Tulse Hill, Herne Bay v Old Beccehamians; Horsham v Bognor; Marden Russets v Old Williamsonians; Middleton v Mid Sussex; Old Bordenians v Old Holcombeians. Middx/Berks/Bucks and Oxon: Amersham v Eastcote; Bracknell v Marlow; ETESSA v Hendon; Headington v City of Oxford; OMT v Milton Keynes; PHC Chiswick v NPL, Ramgarhia v Mill Hill; Richings Park v Hayes; Staines v Harrow, Sunbury v HCC
ADNAMS EAST LEAGUE: Premier division A: Chelmsford v Cambridge Univ; Colchester v Bedford Town; Ipswich v Bishops Stortford, Peterborough Town v Bury St Edmunds; Redbridge and Ilford v Cambridge City. Premier division B: Norwich City v Clacton; Old Southendian v Westcliff; Romford v Brentwood; Stevenage v Ipswich and East Suffolk; Sudbury v Luton Town.
NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Formby v Southport, Halifax v Ben Rhydding, Norton v Neston; Sheffield Bankers v Timperley, Warrington v Harrogate.
DTZ DEBENHAM THORPE LEAGUE: Premier division: Bloxwich v Belper; Khalsa v Hampton-in-Arden; Loughborough Students v Bridgnorth; North Notts v Harborne; Nottingham v John Player.
SUN LIFE WEST LEAGUE: First division: Cheltenham v Whitchurch; Plymouth v Robinsons; Swansea v Bath Buccs; Taunton Vale v Bristol; Weston-super-Mare v Exeter Univ.
WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Balsam Leicester v Sutton Canada Life (12.30, Melton Mowbray); Bracknell v Ipswich (2.0); Doncaster v Clifton (12.0); Slough v Hightown (3.0, Wexham). First division: Bradford Swithenbank v Chelmsford (1.45); Sunderland Bedans v Canterbury (12.30); Trojans v Exmouth (2.0); Wimbledon v Blueharts (12.0). Second division: Ealing v Aldridge (12.30); Loughborough v Reading (2.30); St. Albans v Sherwood (12.0); Woking v Olton (12.30, Goldsworth Pk).
REGIONAL LEAGUES: East: Cambridge City v Bexleyheath; Harleston v Saracens; Old Loughtonians v Sevenoaks; WGC v Ipswich II. Midlands: Kettering v Bedford; Leicester II v Ramblers, Peverel v Hampton; Pickwick v Tamworth. North: Blackburn v Liverpool. Don Valley v Carlisle; Poynton v York; Sheffield v Newcastle. South: Camberley v W Witney; Hendon v Portsmouth; Winchester v Soton; Winchmore Hill v Hampstead; Worthing v Dulwich. West: Cheltenham v Leominster; E Glos v Bournemouth; Wimborne v Colwall; Yate v St Austell
WELSH WOMEN'S COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP (Pwllheli and Porthmadog)

OTHER SPORT

BOXING: World Boxing Council bantamweight championship: Wayne McCullough (Belfast, holder) v Johnny Bredahl (Den) (King's Hall, Belfast)
SNOOKER: Royal Liver Assurance United Kingdom championship (Preston)
SQUASH: British under-16 and under-23 championships (Nottingham).

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
** denotes all-ticket*

FA Carling Premiership
Wimbledon v Newcastle (4.0)

Endsleigh Insurance League
First division
Sunderland v Crystal Palace (2.55)
Wolverhampton v Ipswich (2.55)

FA Cup
Second round
* Kingstonian v Plymouth (1.30)

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: University College Dublin v Shamrock (3.15).
UK LIVING WOMEN'S FA CUP: Third round replay: Barry v Plymouth Pilgrims. Fourth round: Oxford Utd v Everton; Millwall Lionesses v Langford; Arsenal v Manchester: Binfield v Doncaster Belles; Chelsea v Newcastle; Huddersfield v Berkhamsted; Liverpool v Garswood/St Helens; Oldham v Croydon; Ilkeston v Highfield; Southampton Saints v Whitehawk; Tottenham Hotspur v Villa Aztecs; Stockport v Wembley; Sheffield Wed v Middlesbrough; Brighton and Hove v Ipswich; Inter Cardiff v Wolverhampton Wanderers
FA WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Northern division: Kidderminster v Tranmere. Southern division: Wimbledon v Brentford.

RUGBY UNION

CIS county championship
Midlands
Notts, Lincs and Derbys v Leicestershire (at Newark, 2.30)

Club matches
Camborne v Truro
Redruth v Launceston

CIS under-21 county championship
North
Cumbria v Yorkshire (at Kendal, 2.0)
South West
Buckinghamshire v Dorset and Wilts (at Aylesbury, 2.15)
South East
Kent v Eastern Counties (at Westcombe Park, 2.15)
Middlesex v Hampshire (at Old Merchant Taylors', 2.15)
Herts v Surrey (at Cheshunt, 2.15)

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

Stones Championship
Halifax v Leeds
London Broncos v Wigan (at Brentford FC, 7.05)
St Helens v Workington
Warrington v Sheffield
First division
Dewsbury v Rochdale
Salford v Huddersfield
Wakefield v Keighley (3.30)
Whitehaven v Batley (3.30)
Widnes v Featherstone
Second division
Bramley v Carlisle
Doncaster v Swinton (2.15)
Hunslet v Hull KR (3.30)
Leigh v Highfield
York v Chorley (3.15)

Silk Cut Challenge Cup
First round
Blackpool v Fryston (2.30)
Nottingham v West Bowling (2.0)

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: London v Chester (5.0), Thames Valley v Newcastle (6.0).
7-UP TROPHY: Quarter-final, second leg: Sheffield v Manchester (6.15)

HOCKEY

HA CUP: Fourth round: Beeston v Hull (Highfields; Nottingham 1.0); Canterbury v Formby (Polo Farm 12.0); East Grinstead v Hampstead and Westminster (Saint Hill 2.0); Edgbaston v Khalsa (Birmingham University 2.0); Firebrands v Chichester (Exeter School 2.0); Guildford v Norton (Kings Manor School 12.0), Harborne v Slough (Hadley Stadium 1.15); Hounslow v Havant (Chiswick 12.0); Indian Gymkhana v Southgate (Osterley 1.30); Old Loughtonians v City of Portsmouth (Chigwell 1.30). Reading v Brooklands (Sonning Lane 2.0); Richmond v Olton and West Warwickshire (Teddington School 12.45); Surbiton v Cannock (Sugden Road 1.30); Teddington v Bromley (Teddington School 1.30); Trojans v Doncaster (Stoneham Lane 12.30); Wimbledon v Gloucester City (KCS Wimbledon 1.30)
AEWHA CUP: Third round: Aldridge v Luton Town (2.0); Ashford (Kent) v Winnington Park (12.30); Billingham v Harleston Magpies (12.30), Blueharts v Woking (2.0); Bracknell v Doncaster (1.20); Broxbourne v Leyland Motors (12.0); Camberley v Cambridge Univ (2.30); Canterbury v Tulse Hill (2.30); Chelmsford Broadoak v Bournemouth (1.0); City of Portsmouth v Reading (11.30); Clifton v Blackburn (1.0), Dulwich v Loughborough Students (12.0), Ealing v Cheltenham (11.30); Exmouth v Maidenhead (1.30): Farnborough v Exeter (2.0); Havant v Bradford Swithenbank (11.0); Hendon v Dudley (12.0); Hightown v Southampton (12.30, Formby CC), Ipswich v Sutton Canada Life (12.0); Liverpool v Hampton-in-Arden (2.0); North Staffs v Harrow (1.0); Norwich City v Leominster (1.0); Old Loughtonians v Newcastle (1.15); Olton v York (1.30), Penzance v Wimbledon (11.0): Peterborough v Sunderland Bedans (12.45); Poynton v Trojans (1.30); Redbridge and Ilford v Crimson Ramblers (12.15): St Albans v Balsam Leicester (1.0); Sevenoaks v Rover Cowley (2.0); Sherwood v Slough (2.0) Winchester v Charnock (2.0)
AEWHA PLATE: First round: Aldershot and Farnham v Horsham; Ambleside v Norton; Bath v Taw Valley; Bishop's Stortford v Copdock, Blossomfield v Buckingham; Brentwood v Hounslow; Bridgnorth v Kings Heath, Brighton and Hove v Mill Hill, Bromley v Eastcote; Burgess Hill v Anchorians; Burnt Ash v Polytechnic, Caledonians v Nelson, Chester v Formby; Chiswick v Tring; Christchurch v Basildon, Colchester v Epsom; Deeside Ramblers v Sheffield; Dereham v Berkhamstead and Hemel Hempstead; Disley v Craven Arms, Eastleigh v Atalanta, Edgbaston v West Witney; Enfield v Old de Ferrians; Falmouth v Teignmouth; Folkestone Optimists v Sunbury; Haverhill v NPL; Hereford v Neston, Huntingdon v Cheshunt; Isca v Fleet; Kettering v Saracens; Lichfield v Pickwick; Lincoln Imps v Chapeltown; Matlock Baileans v Crosby; Morpeth v Bingley; Newbury v Gravesend; Newton Abbot v Taunton Civil Service, Northampton v Sleby; Oxford Hawks v Lansdown.

ICE HOCKEY

BRITISH LEAGUE: Premier division; Cardiff v Basingstoke (6.15). Durham v Milton Keynes (6.30); Fife v Nottingham (6.30), Humberside v Newcastle (5.45), Slough v Sheffield (6.30). First division: Bracknell v Medway (6.15); Dumfries v Billingham (6.30); Murrayfield v Blackburn (6.30). Paisley v Telford (6.30); Peterborough v Manchester (5.30): Solihull v Chelmsford (7.0); Swindon v Guildford (6.0).

OTHER SPORT

CYCLING: National Trophy cyclo-cross (third round, Braunstone Park, Leicester, 2.0)
RACKETS: Lacoste amateur championship (Queens' Club)
SNOOKER: Royal Liver Assurance United Kingdom championship (Preston)
SQUASH: British under-16 and under-23 championships (Nottingham)

هكذا من الأصل

Offiah on the brink of joining elite club

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

THE latest landmark for Martin Nwokocha Offiah looms in his native London. A 46th hat-trick against the Broncos at Brentford tomorrow night, would take the Wigan wing to 400 tries in eight years and into the exulted company of the top ten all-time rugby league try scorers.

His move to Widnes from Rosslyn Park rugby union club in 1987 was scarcely noticed. "Four hundred tries is a bit daunting looking back," he said. "It's not something I thought about when scoring my first try. The approach is no different. I just look at Sunday and trying to score."

There is little sign of Offiah slowing down at 28. His 53 tries last season were only rivalled by his best total of 58 in 1988-89. With 19 in the present truncated campaign, he is on course to better the record he shares with Brian Bevan and Eric Harris, two legendary fellow wings, of topping the try chart in five seasons.

However, one record he is glad to be relieved of is the £500,000 world transfer fee which was broken by Paul Newlove's move from Bradford to St Helens this week. "There's a lot of pressure with such a price tag. I was fortunate at Wigan that things went well for me in that first half season, but it is still a weight off my shoulders. He's welcome to it," Offiah said.

Newlove makes his debut at home to Workington tomorrow, but in a case of robbing Peter to pay Paul, St Helens have raised admission prices by £1 to £7. How keen supporters are "to do their bit" as David Howes, the club's chief executive, hopes, will be measured by a crowd above the 6,000 for last year's corresponding fixture.

After dispiriting defeats in midweek, St Helens and Leeds have all but conceded the Stones Championship to Wigan. Interest turns to the impact London, in sixth place, can continue to make and the acid test of facing a near full strength Wigan.

Ikram Butt, the one Englishman in a side of Australians, has the job of marking Offiah. He typifies their sense of adventure. "We have the players to play an expansive game and that's what we're trying to do all the time," he said.

Chesnokov stretches Sampras to his limit

FROM DAVID MILLER IN MOSCOW

JIM COURIER, twice the French tennis champion, failed to become the troublesome deputy for Andre Agassi that Yevgeny Kafelnikov had forecast he might. However much Courier irritatingly adjusted his peaked cap, his scuffling defensive game was no match for the flowing, all-court competence of the world No 6.

Kafelnikov beat Courier in straight sets, 7-6, 7-5, 6-3, to level the first day's score between Russia and the United States in the Davis Cup final here at one rubber each.

With Russia expected to win the doubles today, they would seem to be on their way to capturing the trophy for the first time. Andrei Chesnokov, the Russia second string, had given another memorable performance in taking Pete Sampras, the game's top player, to five sets before going under 3-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-7, 6-4.

The unfit Agassi, having belatedly arrived from Las Vegas as a spectator, to what seemed a cool reception from the rest of the United States team, sat on the bench occasionally blowing pink chewing-gum bubbles the size of his own shaven head, another facet of the Americans' strange inclination to behave like street kids from New York's lower east side. The shabby, sponsored attire of Sampras, whose behaviour on and off court was impeccable, made him look like an urchin.

Chesnokov, awarded Russia's Order of Courage for his display in the semi-final, stood on the brink of being a national celebrity for a second time. He led Sampras 4-3 in the final set of the opening match, when the American was suddenly gripped by cramp in his right leg hamstring, and repeatedly bent double between points.

In desperation, Sampras abandoned patience on the clay surface that he so dislikes. For three games, he lived up to his nickname of Pistol Pete, as he sought to belt the cover off the ball. He took 12 of the next 14 points and the match.

As Chesnokov finally hit a backhand wide, at the end of an exceptional rally in which a string of successive strokes, from either side of the net, had each seemed a winner, Sampras collapsed on his back on the court, and had to be carried away by coaching and medical staff of the United States team. "Who knew if I could have continued?" he asked later, after treatment.

When Chesnokov was asked what he thought about his opponent's collapse, those deep-set, inscrutable eyes rolled as he reflected: "I was not thinking about him, but that it was a pity I did not win that point."

It would have given him deuce as he had just saved the first match point when Sampras missed a backhand volley at the net when an open court faced him.

Sampras said that, with a day's rest and the right intake of fluids, he should have no repetition of the cramp in the reverse singles tomorrow. Yet, he had so nearly sunk beneath problems of every kind yesterday in a match of tortuous fluctuation and emotional stress as opposed to technically great tennis.

"That was one of the finest of Davis Cup matches," Neale Fraser, who played in six finals for Australia, said appreciatively afterwards.

Only in the fourth set tie-break — which Chesnokov, 29, won 7-5 on Sampras's double fault to level at two sets all, having led 5-1 after his tenth ace — and in the final set did either player come close to a technical peak. Yet each had given everything.

Chesnokov's intention was to keep Sampras at the back of the court. This, initially, he did, particularly with his punched, two-handed backhand, and he broke Sampras's famed service three times to capture the first set.

Sampras steadied to take the next two, and he then had two points to lead 5-2 in the fourth set.

The Russian, however, was anything but spent. He broke back with the help of forehand errors, that had plagued Sampras all afternoon, and began again to push his opponent from flank to flank. The match surged and swayed towards its climax, with seductive, elusive victory beckoning perplexingly, game by game, to both players.

Once Kafelnikov had swept through the first set tie-break against Courier by 7-1, his service power and willingness to volley assured him of a relatively quick victory.

DETAILS

Results

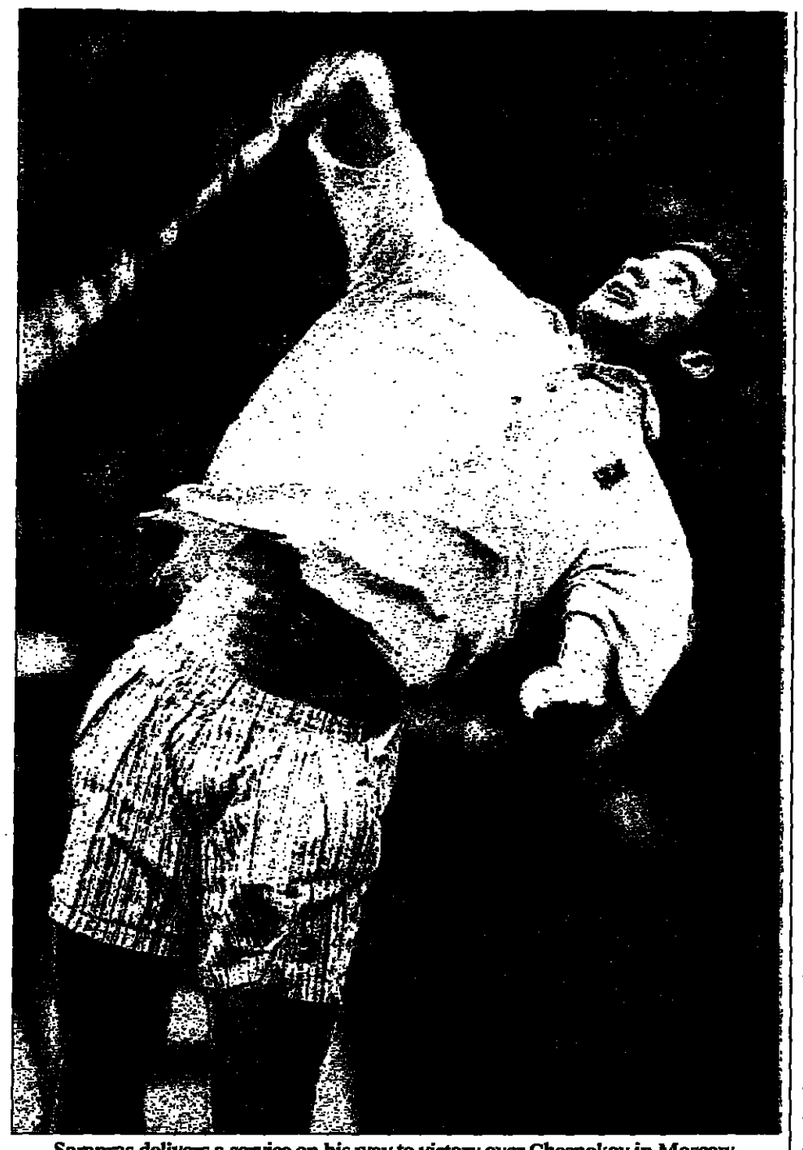
P Sampras (US) bt A Chesnokov (Russ) 3-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-7, 6-4

Y Kafelnikov (Russ) bt J Courier (US) 7-6, 7-5, 6-3

Remaining ties

TODAY: Doubles: Kafelnikov and A Olkhovsky v T Martin and R Reneberg.

TOMORROW: Singles: Kafelnikov v Sampras; Chesnokov v Courier.



Sampras delivers a service on his way to victory over Chesnokov in Moscow

Waughs stand firm against Mushtaq's spin

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN SYDNEY

POOR light brought the second day of the third Test here to a premature close, and the torrent that followed within an hour of stumps may reduce the playing time on the remaining three days. That would be a shame because the match is nicely balanced with Australia, replying to Pakistan's 299, on 151 for three with the Waugh brothers at the crease.

Oddly, Mark Waugh had previously made only one Test half-century on his home ground. He will resume 54 not out, having countered the wrist spin of Mushtaq Ahmed on a turning pitch with the dancing feet that make him such a beautiful player to watch.

It was not so easy for the others. Boon, dabbing, and Taylor, sweeping, have already fallen to the spinners and Mushtaq Ahmed has bowled extremely well. Mushtaq Saqlain, the off spinner, has not troubled the batsmen and will not until he trusts himself to give the ball more air. He is a promising cricketer, notwithstanding the absurd way he threw his wicket away in the morning.

In an extraordinary first session Pakistan lost their remaining six wickets in adding 89 — the last four falling for two runs — as Shane Warne finished with four for 55 from 34 overs. No less remarkably, Mark Waugh missed a chance at second slip. Ijaz Ahmed, reprieved at 104, went on to 137 when he swung a full toss from Warne to McGrath on the fence.

Basit Ali was the first to go, driving McDermott to Slater at mid-off. Latif followed, caught behind off a pathetic prod, but with Ijaz paired with Wasim, Pakistan had hopes of making par, 350 or thereabouts. Ijaz's dismissal, after seven hours of fierce concentration, prompted a hideous collapse of collective nerve.

Quite what Saqlain thought he was doing, charging down the pitch when Wasim pushed McGrath towards extra cover, he alone knows. Boon hit the stumps directly with an underarm throw and once again Australia's sharpness in the field had embarrassed Pakistan's sloppy thinking. An over later Mushtaq Ahmed, who can hold a bat — indeed, he helped win the controversial Test against Australia in Karachi last year with his batting — spooned Warne to mid-on.

Then Wasim, who had taken four marvellous boundaries off a McDermott over to drive him out of the attack, miscued a full toss from McGrath and gave the bowler a return catch.

Wasim avenged that error at once, bending one late in to Slater, who was attempting an attacking stroke. Really, however daring Slater is, he should know better than to drive a ball of full length, the third of the innings, from the world's best fast bowler.

Boon, who needs a big score to prevent the selectors thinking of the many pretenders to a Test place, failed again when he edged Mushtaq's top spinner to Latif. Boon's last three Test innings have brought only 50 runs and, loyal though the Australians are to their players, it must be possible that they call up another Tasmanian, the 20-year-old Ricky Ponting, for the Test against Sri Lanka that begins in Perth next week.

Taylor, sweeping, fell to Saqlain before the Waughs pulled things round in the final session. Steve Waugh tethered himself to the crease, playing Mushtaq with a respect the bowler had fully earned. Mark opted to lift the bowlers from time to time, and prospered. His task is now to kick on and make the hundred that has eluded him so far. If he does, Australia will have an excellent chance of a third victory.

England A failed to take advantage of helpful conditions when the second international with Pakistan A finally began after lunch on the second day at Rawalpindi. Pakistan, put in, made 73 for one in 34 overs. Headley and White bowled too short and the only wicket fell to the leg spinner, Salisbury, who had Shahid Anwar caught behind.

SCOREBOARD

PAKISTAN: First Innings

Aamir Sohail c M E Waugh b McDermott	4
Ramiz Raja c Slater b Warne	33
Ijaz Ahmed c McGrath b Warne	137
Inzamam-ul-Haq c Healy b Warne	39
Salim Malik low b McGrath	36
Basit Ali c Slater b McDermott	17
†Rashid Latif c Healy b McDermott	1
*Wasim Akram c and b McGrath	21
Saqlain Mushtaq run out	0
Mushtaq Ahmed c McDermott b Warne	0
Waqar Younis not out	0
Extras (lb 3, w 2, nb 6)	11
Total	299

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-4, 2-84, 3-141, 4-210, 5-263, 6-269, 7-297, 8-298, 9-299

BOWLING: McDermott 21-8-62-3; McGrath 22.2-1-79-2; Reiffel 22-4-71-0; Warne 34-20-55-4, M E Waugh 10-4-23-0; Blewett 4-2-6-0.

AUSTRALIA: First Innings

M J Slater b Wasim	1
*M A Taylor c Rashid b Saqlain Mushtaq	47
D C Boon c Rashid b Mushtaq Ahmed	16
M E Waugh not out	54
S R Waugh not out	26
Extras (lb 4, nb 3)	7
Total (3 wkts)	151

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2, 2-44, 3-91.

G S Blewett, †I A Healy, P R Reiffel, S K Warne, C J McDermott and G D McGrath to bat.

BOWLING: Wasim 14-3-30-1, Waqar 5-1-14-0; Mushtaq Ahmed 19-3-52-1; Saqlain Mushtaq 15-2-38-1; Sohail 4-0-15-0

Umpires: H D Bird (England) and S G Randell (Australia)

Pearson learns to take success sitting down

BY DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

THOSE Kenyans, they know how to run. They are master tacticians. They possess natural ability. They train hard. They take resting seriously.

When Andrew Pearson spent a week training with a group of Kenyan athletes, he witnessed the importance they attach to rest between sessions. "They were all sat there, sprawled in front of television," Pearson said. "It is part of the job, sitting down. It is all about resting, as well as running."

Pearson had not needed convincing, but his Kenyan experience underlined his wisdom in giving up his job as a warehouseman. "I was on my feet all day," he said. Now he has time to sit.

He has time, as well, to train when he wishes and is well on his way from the Marks and Spencer warehouse to the shop window of athletics. It may be too much to expect an individual medal from him in the European cross country championships in Alnwick, Northumberland, today, but he should maintain his progress.

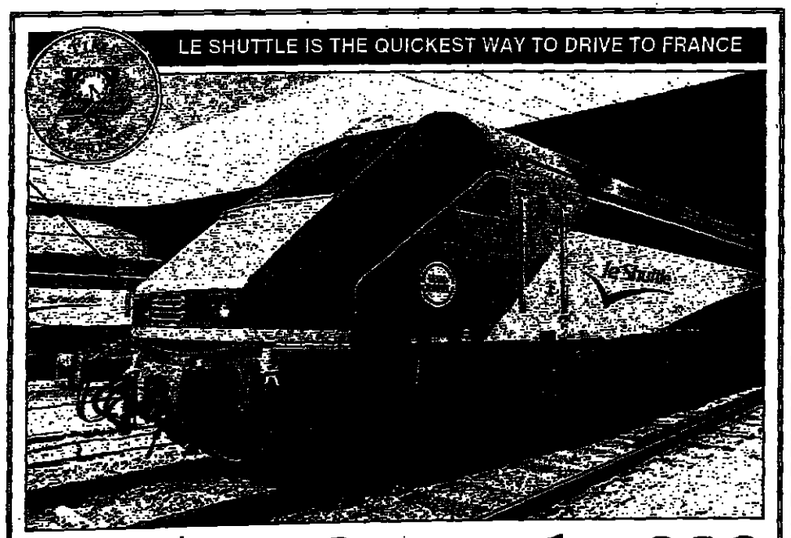
In his three senior international championships so far, Pearson has finished as leading Briton. He has improved with each one: 32nd in the 1993 world championship; eleventh in the 1994 European championship; twentieth, and eighth-ranked European, in the 1995 world championship.

Anything other than a top-ten place today would be contrary to his form. Two weeks ago, in Dunkirk, he finished only three seconds behind the undisputed No 1 in Europe, Paulo Guerra, from Portugal. Last year in Dunkirk, the Longwood Harrier was half-a-minute behind Guerra.

Guerra and his compatriots would normally regard Spain and France as their main challengers for team honours but, if Pearson, Keith Cullen and Jon Brown run to form, and if one of Colin Jones, Carl Udall or David Taylor has the run of his life, Britain could squeeze among the medals.

Pearson earns up to £1,000 a race in appearance fees, plus prize-money. "It is all in Spain and France; you cannot get it in Britain," he said. "A few races have got OK money, but it is not what you can pick up abroad."

As well as training runs, Pearson does circuits twice a week, cycles 40 miles with good club riders, and swims 24 lengths five times a week. The cycling is fast — "we call it the Chain Gang" — but the swimming is easy. Pearson says swimming is resting: "It takes the weight off your legs." He is ahead of the Kenyans there.



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THE TIMES le Shuttle TOKEN

FOR THE RECORD

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NFL): Arizona 6 New York Giants 10.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Miami 118 Detroit 107; Orlando 110 Dallas 96; Cleveland 97 Washington 85; Utah 112 Houston 105; Milwaukee 100 Portland 98; Chicago 94 Vancouver 88; Sacramento 105 Indiana 95

7-UP TROPHY: Quarter-finals, second leg: Derby Storm 93 Worthing Bears 99 (Worthing win 185-181 on agg), Birmingham 92 Chester 89 (Birmingham win 200-178 on agg)

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Group A: CSKA Moscow 82 Iraklis Salonika 68; Treviso 90 Bayer Leverkusen 87. Group B: Benfica 83 Bologna 85; Pau-Orthez 78 Panathinaikos 87; Maccabi Tel Aviv 94 Barcelona 85; Real Madrid 81 Cibona Zagreb 78.

BOWLS

COATBRIDGE: CIS Insurance Scottish indoor championship: Semi-finals: P Conlan (Midlothian) bt A Blair (East Lothian) 5-7, 7-4, 7-3; D Peacock (Midlothian) bt D Miller (Cumbernauld) 1-7, 8-8, 7-5. Final: Peacock bt Conlan 7-4, 6-7, 2-7, 7-3, 7-5

CRICKET

RAWALPINDI (second day of five; England A won toss): Pakistan A have scored 73 for one wicket against England A

PAKISTAN A: First Innings

Shakeel Ahmed not out	39
Shahid Anwar c Piper b Salisbury	13
Saeed Azad not out	10
Extras (lb 4, nb 7)	11
Total (1 wkt)	73

*Asif Mujtaba, Manzoor Akhtar, Mazhar Qayyum, †Wasim Yousuf, Athar Laiq, Salman Fazal, Anwar Ali and Mohammad Zahid to bat.

FALL OF WICKET: 1-45.

BOWLING: Headley 10-2-21-0; Munton 10-6-10-0; White 7-1-26-0; Salisbury 7-3-12-1.

ENGLAND A: N V Knight, J E R Gallian, *N Hussain, J C Pooley, R C Irani, C White, †K J Piper, I D K Salisbury, D W Headley, T A Munton, R D Stemp.

Umpires: Mehboob Shah and Saddique Khan

TOUR MATCH: Launceston (first day of four): Tasmania 252-4 (R Ponting 84 not out) v Sri Lankans.

SHEFFIELD SHIELD: Brisbane: Western Australia 110 and 47-3; Queensland 362 (T Barsby 133). Adelaide: Victoria 297; South Australia 379-5 (J Brayshaw 112).

GOLF

SUN CITY: Million Dollar Challenge: 138: N Price (Zim) 71, 67; 141: B Langer (Ger) 72, 69; T Lehman (US) 71, 70; C Pavin (US) 69, 72. 142: S Torrance (Scot) 69, 73. 144: E Els (SA) 72, 72. 147: V Singh (Fij) 75, 72. 150: D Frost (SA) 74, 76; P Mickelson (US) 73, 77; N Faldo (Eng) 72, 78. 151: C Rocca (It) 76, 75. 155: C Monagomerie (Scot) 79, 76

LA MANGA CLUB, Spain: Women's Tour qualifying: Leading final totals (GB and Ire unless stated): 288: T Craik 71, 72, 70, 75. 290: A-M Knight 75, 69, 74, 72. 291: T Lovejoy 72, 73, 72, 74. 293: S Mallin (Swe) 75, 74, 71, 73. 294: D Donniger (US) 72, 77, 70, 75. 295: H Koch (Swe) 74, 77, 74, 70; J Mills (Aus) 69, 79, 74, 73; I Tinning (Den) 71, 78, 74, 74.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Pittsburgh 9 Boston 6; New York Islanders 5 Ottawa 3; Philadelphia 3 Toronto 2; St Louis 4 Winnipeg 1; Los Angeles 3 Washington 2

RUGBY UNION

SWALEC CUP: Fourth round: Revised draw: Group one: * Abercynon v Caerphilly; Rhymney v Nelson. Group two: * Builth Wells v Fleur de Lys; Rumney v Pontypool. Group three: Cardiff v Dalcidia; * Penarth v Ebbw Vale. Group four: * Carmarthen v Neath; Heol-y-Cyw v Cowbridge. Group five: * Ynysddu v Old Penarthians; Maesteg v Bonymaen. Group six: * Swansea v Tenby Utd; Newport Saracens v Tonmawr. Group seven: * South Wales Police v Old Illtydians; Blaina v Abercrave. Group eight: * Llanharan v Pontypridd; Treorchy v Kidwelly. Group nine: Abercrave v Blackwood; * Cefn Cribbwr v Whitland. Group ten: Cardiff Institute v Maesteg Celtic; * Llanegennech v Abergavenny. Group eleven: Mountain Ash (seed) v Ystradgynlais; * Newport v Tumble. Group twelve: * Penygraig (seed) v Glynneath, Ystrad Rhondda v Llandovery. Group thirteen: Resolven v Llanelli; * Newcastle Emlyn v Mentyr. Group fourteen: * Talywain v Dunvant; Vardre v Glamorgan Wanderers. Group fifteen: * Garndiffaith v Newbridge, Gilfach Goch v Cross Keys. Group sixteen: Carmarthen Quins v Bridgend; * Aberbeeg v Hendy. To be played on Saturday, Dec 16.

* Winners will be at home to winners of other match in fifth round on Sat, Jan 20.

SQUASH

DOHA: Qatar International championship: Semi-final: Jansher Khan (Pakistan) bt P Nicol (Scot) 15-12, 15-12, 17-15; R Eyles (Aus) bt B Martin (Aus) 15-11, 15-13, 10-15, 15-13.

SWIMMING

RIO DE JANEIRO: World short-course championships: Finals: Men: 100m breaststroke: 1, M Wenncke (Ger) 59.89sec; 2, P Kent (NZ) 1min 00.14sec; 3, S Lopukhov (Russ) 1:00.35. 100m butterfly: 1, S Meller (Aus) 52.38sec; 2, D Pimankov (Russ) 52.64; 3, M Klim (Aus) 52.80. 200m freestyle: 1, G Borges (Br) 1min 45.55sec; 2, T Bray (NZ) 1:46.18; 3, M Klim (Aus) 1:46.44. 400m individual medley: 1, M Dunn (Aus) 4min 8.02sec; 2, C Mycken (Can) 4:09.39; 3, M Malinski (Pol) 4:10.37. 4 x 100m relay: 1, New Zealand 3:35.66; 2, Australia 3:36.35; 3, Russia 3:36.88. Women: 50m freestyle: 1, Le Jingyi (China) 24.62sec; 2, A Postma (Holl) 25.10; 3, S Voelker (Ger) 25.21. 100m freestyle: 1, Le Jingyi (China) 53.23sec; 2, Ne Chao (China) 54.52; 3, S Voelker (Ger) 54.69. British placing: 7, K Pickering 55.62. 200m butterfly: 1, S O'Neill (Aus) 2min 6.18sec; 2, Lu Limin (China) 2:06.51; 3, M Jacobsen (Den) 2:11.07. 400m individual medley: 1, J Mater (Can) 4:36.40; 2, N Sweetnam (Can) 4:37.04; 3, B Vestergaard (Den) 4.37.10. 4 x 200m freestyle relay: 1, Canada 7.58.25; 2, Germany 8:01.11; 3, Australia 8:01.86.

TABLE TENNIS

STOCKHOLM: International tournament: Quarter-finals: Men: Sweden bt Yugoslavia 3-1; China bt Sweden 3-1; Germany bt Greece 3-2; Belorussia bt Japan 3-1. Women: Holland bt Sweden 3-0; China bt Russia 3-0; Germany bt Australia 3-2; Japan bt South Korea 3-1.

TENNIS

MOUNT GAMBIER, Australia: Women: Challenger tournament (selected results): First round: L Ahl (GB) bt S Drake-Brockman (Aus) 5-7, 6-3, 6-0; L Jelis (GB) bt R Vidats (Hun) 6-3, 6-3; S Georges (Fr) bt M Wainwright (GB) 6-2, 6-7, 6-4. Second round: Ahl bt S Peters (Aus) 6-1, 6-0



Lonesome Train on track for double

By Richard Evans
Racing Correspondent

LONESOME TRAIN produced one of the biggest surprises of the season when he collected at Cheltenham on Mackeson day at the rewarding Tote odds of 88-1 — and the punters still think it was a flash in the pan.

Although the form of the Murphy's Handicap Hurdle has worked out brilliantly and the race was run in an excellent time, Colin Weedon's winner is generally available at 12-1 for the £50,000-added William Hill Hurdle at Sandown today — and the trainer from Chiddingfold, near Guildford, is baffled as to why.

"It seems everybody is ignoring his Cheltenham victory as though it was a fluke," Weedon said yesterday. "But I think it was a very good run. He came off a fast pace and they were strung out at the top of the hill as though it was a three-mile chase.

"Although the handicapper has raised him 14lb, he is running off a mark only 6lb higher today as he was 8lb out of the handicap at Cheltenham. His preparation for Saturday has gone fine and he's in a similar vein of form as he was before his last race. Although it is difficult to fault Bimsey's form, I think my horse has got a great each-way chance."

Weedon, who enjoyed considerable success with Miracle Man last season, continued: "Lonesome Train has a high cruising speed, travels well in a race and has run well at Sandown in the past. A stiff two miles is ideal for him."

Bimsey scored impressively for Reg Akehurst at Aintree a fortnight ago but runs off a 16lb higher mark in a race where top weights have a poor record. Sublime Fellow was well backed to win at Ascot on his seasonal reappearance, only to find one too good in the shape of Non Vintage. That form was given a boost when the winner finished a good third to Padre Mio at Newcastle last Saturday, which gives Nicky Henderson's runner a live chance this afternoon.

Chief's Song, the mount of Richard Dunwoody, bounced back to his best when defeating Putty Road at Cheltenham and looks fairly weighted. However, at the available odds, **Lonesome Train** looks a solid each-way proposition.

Although only five horses line up for the Mitsubishi Shogun Tingle Creek Trophy, it promises to be a vintage clash between the best two-mile chasers in Britain and Ireland. David Nicholson has sent out the winner in five of the last eight runnings and is doubly represented with Storm Alert and Viking Flagship, the Queen Mother Champion Chase winner, who took this race last year.

The conditions of the race clearly favour Viking Flagship as he meets his rivals on level terms, but the progressive **Sound Man** has the ground and race fitness in his favour and Edward O'Grady's talented chaser can prevail today.

While Sound Man is unlikely to be a big price, some value bets are on offer away from the gaze of the television cameras and I would suggest **Alternation** could reward support at potentially decent odds at Towcester (3.05). She was not well last season but has shown considerable promise on both outings this term, noticeably at Haydock 17 days ago when she split Smith Too and Yes Man, both previous winners.

The mare, trained by Paul Webber, still looked a shade burly that day but should be now approaching peak fitness. "She's in very good form and I think the three mile trip will suit her well," Webber said yesterday.

Gordon Richards has opted to run **Unguided Missile** at Wetherby in the Wharfe Handicap Chase (2.40) rather than take on Smith's Band and Hill Of Tullow in the opener at Sandown and the Greystoke trainer looks to have found a winning opportunity for his "very nice and underrated" horse.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: TREASURE AGAIN
(1.00 Chepstow)
Next best: Inchcailloch
(2.35 Sandown Park)



JULIAN HERBERT

Viking Flagship, centre, winning a thrilling tussle at Aintree in April, makes his seasonal reappearance in the Tingle Creek Chase today

Montelado misses intended comeback

MONTELADO, a leading Irish hope for the Champion Hurdle, will miss his intended return to jumping in tomorrow's Hattons Grace Hurdle at Fairyhouse.

The eight-year-old has been restricted by injury to just one run over hurdles in the last two and a half seasons, but is reported "100 per cent sound" and still firmly on course for Cheltenham.

Pat Flynn, his trainer, explained: "He had a slight runny nose, so I had him scoped before declaration time and they found a little mucus in his lungs.

"I won't run him as it would be enough to stop him. I wouldn't run him if it was a maiden hurdle as it might put him off for a month or six weeks.

"The only two races that matter are the Irish and English Champion Hurdles and if he had to go for them without a prep race it wouldn't bother me," Flynn continued.

Montelado, for whom Richard Dunwoody had been booked, remains 9-2 joint-favourite for the Champion Hurdle with William Hill. In his absence, Dorans Pride, the Stayers' Hurdle winner, faces just two rivals in Sunday's Ir£40,000 event.

General Wolfe weighted to take command

CHEPSTOW
BBC1

1.00: I quite like **Treasure Again**, who improved with every run over hurdles for Merrita Jones last season until disappointing at Aintree when past his best. This soft-ground lover produced his best performance when going down by a short head to Bear Claw at Cheltenham. Mrs Jones has her string in fine fettle and reports that the six-year-old is sufficiently forward to do himself justice on his reappearance.

New Inn is fairly handicapped but may not appreciate the soft ground. Indian Quest, returning from a long absence, and Idiot's Lady look bigger dangers.

1.30: General Wolfe is one of the best handicapped chasers in training and Tim Forster appears to have found the ideal starting point for what should be a profitable campaign. He signed off last season with victory under top weight at Worcester, with the promise of more to come. Greenhill Tare Away put up an improved performance over hurdles last time and if he can show similar progress over fences would be a big threat.

2.05: Bradbury Star ran well for a long way in the Mackeson until lack of fitness told, but prefers good ground. **Master Oats** has won on his seasonal reappearance for the past two years, including here last term, and should be forward enough to oblige once again.

SANDOWN PARK
CHANNEL 4

2.00: See left.

2.35: This is probably the best two-mile novice chase of the season so far. Simple Arithmetic ranks high among Kim Bailey's novice chasers but is being pitched in at the deep end. Captain Khedive showed improved form at Cheltenham and is best when there is a fast pace, which is far from guaranteed here. Although **Inchcailloch** beat Certainly Strong by only a length at Kempton the official winning margin did not reflect the superiority of Jeff King's exciting novice. He is a confident choice.

3.10: See left.

3.40: Simply Dashing, burdened with top weight, is worth opposing. La Menorquina should be thereabouts, but the booking of Richard Dunwoody tips the balance in favour of **Never So Blue**. He has been raised only 4lb for his Nottingham win and could still be ahead of the handicapper.

WOLVERHAMPTON
CHANNEL 4

2.55: Several of these have not raced before on the all-weather which adds to complications. Far Ahead, one of the exceptions, appeared suited by the step up in trip when obliging at Lingfield 11 days ago. However, **Mistinguett** is taken to complete a memorable season for David Loder. On her first run since being moved from Richard Hannon's yard, she arguably produced her best form at Haydock when runner-up to Debutante Days, and can go one better here.

3.25: Tarawa could be the subject of a gamble this morning as Neville Callaghan's progressive runner works like a group horse at home. He has sound claims but a low draw may be a disadvantage. Nijo boasts the best form but not does appear totally genuine, and it could be worth taking a risk with **Night Dance**, who improved in the autumn.

RICHARD EVANS

TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

SANDOWN PARK

THUNDERER

12.50 Hill Of Tullow	2.35 Certainly Strong
1.25 Redeemyourself	3.10 Top Cees
2.00 Storm Alert	3.40 ANLACE (nap)

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.40 ANLACE.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) SIS

12.50 EWELL CHASE
(£6,743: 3m 110yd) (4 runners)

1	11341-4	CAMITROV 14 (G,S) (J Lewis) S Christian 5-11-10	J F Titley	98
2	12UP-11	SMITH'S BAND 9 (D,G,S) (A Smith) Mrs J Pitman 7-11-5	W Marston	99
3	21F11-1	HILL OF TULLOW 28 (F,G,S) (Lady Harris) D Nicholson 6-11-4	R Dunwoody	89
4	442-345	MAREMMA GALE 9 (R Scorgie) N Mitchell 7-10-10	C Llewellyn	66

BETTING: 4-5 Hill Of Tullow, 2-1 Smith's Band, 9-2 Camitrov, 25-1 Maremma Gale

1994: YORKSHIRE GALE 8-11-5 P Hide (5-4 fav) J Gifford 3 ran

1.25 DOUG BARROTT HANDICAP HURDLE
(£7,230: 2m 6f) (6 runners)

1	11/31P2-	BOKARO 245 (G,S) (A O'Reilly) C Brooks 9-12-0	G Bradley	95
2	11136-0	ANZUM 28 (G,S) (Old Foresters Partners) D Nicholson 4-10-10	R Dunwoody	90
3	0/11384-	ROBERTY LEA 49F (CD,G,S) (Wensldale Corel) Mrs M Reveley 7-10-7	P Niven	92
4	11400-1	REDEEMYOURSELF 17 (G,S) (Mrs T Brown) J Gifford 6-10-3	A P McCoy	99
5	11606-1	NAHTHEN LAD 11 (G,S) (J Shaw) Mrs J Pitman 8-10-0	W Marston	94
6	114P3-0	KINGSFOLD PET 15 (G,S) (G Nye) M Haynes 6-10-0	D Skyrme	89

Long handicap: Nahthen Lad 9-13, Kingsfold Pet 9-12

BETTING: 2-1 Nahthen Lad, 5-2 Redeemyourself, 9-2 Roberty Lea, 5-1 Anzum, 6-1 Bokaro, 10-1 Kingsfold Pet

1994: CAB ON TARGET 8-11-9 G Lee (11-10 fav) Mrs M Reveley 4 ran

2.00 MITSUBISHI SHOGUN TINGLE CREEK TROPHY CHASE (C4)
(Grade I: £30,920: 2m) (5 runners)

1	2135F-2	NAKIR 22 (D,BF,G,S) (J Lewis) S Christian 7-11-7	J F Titley	91
2	222-111	SOUND MAN 14 (D,G,S) (D Lloyd) E O'Grady (Ire) 7-11-7	R Dunwoody	97
3	15300-3	STORM ALERT 35 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs D Perrett) D Nicholson 9-11-7	W Marston	89
4	12F0-11	TRAVADO 11 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs P Sherwood) N Henderson 9-11-7	M A Fitzgerald	94
5	15F211-	VIKING FLAGSHIP 239 (CD,F,G,S) (Roach Foods) D Nicholson 8-11-7	G Bradley	99

BETTING: 6-4 Sound Man, 5-2 Viking Flagship, 3-1 Travado, 10-1 Storm Alert, Nakir

1994: VIKING FLAGSHIP 7-11-7 A Maguire (9-2) D Nicholson 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

NAKIR beaten 8l by sole opponent Wonder Man in handicap chase at Cheltenham (2m, good to firm). SOUND MAN beat Dancing Paddy distance in 5-runner First National Bank Handicap Chase at Ascot (2m 3f 110yd, good). STORM ALERT 1l and neck 3rd of 8 to Egypt Mill Prince in handicap chase at Ascot (2m, good to firm). TRAVADO beat Martha's Son neck in 7-runner Peterborough Chase at Huntingdon (2m 4f 110yd, good). VIKING FLAGSHIP beat Deep Sensation short-head in 6-runner Mumm Melling Chase at Aintree (2m 4f, good to firm). Selection: SOUND MAN (nap)

2.35 WESTMINSTER TAXI INSURANCE HENRY VIII NOVICES CHASE (C4)
(Grade II: £10,948: 2m) (6 runners)

1	6-1U121	CAPTAIN KHEDIVE 20 (D,F,G,S) (Khedive Partners) P Nicholls 7-11-7	A P McCoy	94
2	11254-1	INCHCAILLOCH 17 (D,G,S) (F Carter) J King 6-11-0	G Upton	99
3	114302-	SIMPLE ARITHMETIC 224 (S) (Mrs M Motley) K Bailey 7-11-0	G Bradley	–
4	3F2/2-21	SPINNING STEEL 17 (D,F,G) (Mrs C Lewis-Jones) P Rodford 8-11-0	S Burrough	92
5	FF44/P-1	TOTHEWOODS 7 (D,G,S) (Mrs M Scott) N Twiston-Davies 7-11-0	C Llewellyn	84
6	12210-2	CERTAINLY STRONG 17 (S) (N Skelton) D Nicholson 5-10-9	R Dunwoody	98

BETTING: 5-2 Inchcailloch, 11-4 Certainly Strong, 3-1 Captain Khedive, 5-1 Simple Arithmetic, 7-1 Tothewoods, 16-1 Spinning Steel.

1994: SOUND REVEILLE 6-11-0 G Bradley (11-8 fav) C Brooks 4 ran

FORM FOCUS

CAPTAIN KHEDIVE beat Cable Beach 3½l in the Stakis Casinos Novice Chase at Cheltenham (2m, good to soft). INCHCAILLOCH beat CERTAINLY STRONG 1l in 9-runner novice chase at Kempton (2m, good). SIMPLE ARITHMETIC 6l 2nd of 4 to Home Counties in Scottish Champion Hurdle at Ayr (2m, good to firm). SPINNING STEEL beat Herbert Buchanan 30l in 6-runner novice handicap chase at Hereford (2m, good). TOTHEWOODS beat Paxman Tactics 10l in 4-runner novice chase at Haydock (2m, good). Selection: CAPTAIN KHEDIVE

3.10 WILLIAM HILL HANDICAP HURDLE (C4)
(£35,550: 2m 110yd) (22 runners)

1	0/1131-1	BIMSEY 14 (D,F,G,S) (A Ryan) R Akehurst 5-11-10	G Bradley	95
2	052-12P	PRIDWELL 43 (D,BF,F,G,S) (M Jones) M Pipe 5-11-9	J Lower	91
3	1101-14	SQUIRE SILK 28 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (R Ogden) A Turnell 6-11-9	P Carberry	90
4	1012-30	STOMPIN 21 (D,G,S) (Voice Group Ltd) Miss H Knight 4-11-6	J F Titley	85
5	3131/0-0	DREAMS END 21 (D,F,S) (T Price) J Bradley 7-11-6	W Marston	–
6	/0010-0	THINKING TWICE 15 (D,F,G) (E McGrath) N Henderson 6-11-4	Mr C Vigors (7)	86
7	1PP1/1P	ADMIRAL'S WELL 21 (D,BF,F,G,S) (A Spence) R Akehurst 5-11-2	S Ryan	92
8	/46/321	LONESOME TRAIN 21 (D,F,G) (S Gay) C Weedon 6-11-0	B Fenton (5)	92
9	0F-5111	ESKIMO NEL 8 (D,G,S) (First Chance) J Spearing 4-10-12	A P McCoy	93
10	F343-15	ROMANCER 21 (D,BF,F,G) (M Archer) N Twiston-Davies 4-10-12	C Llewellyn	88
11	3112-00	WHITE WILLOW 21 (V,D,F,S) (H North) Mrs M Reveley 6-10-10	P Niven	91
12	123110-	GOLDEN HELLO 85F (D,F,G,S) (G Shouler) M H Easterby 4-10-10	R Garritty	85
13	160-U01	CHIEF'S SONG 11 (D,G) (Mrs A Devine) S Dow 5-10-10	R Dunwoody	99
14	52130-2	SUBLIME FELLOW 15 (D,G) (Lady Goldsmith) N Henderson 5-10-8	M A Fitzgerald	90
15	5100-63	GOLDEN ARROW 15 (D,F,S) (P Mellon) I Balding 4-10-3	D Byrne	91
16	F/25/0-3	ALBEMINE 9 (D,F) (G Ward) Mrs J Cecil 6-10-1	T Kent	90
17	33255-0	STATAJACK 15 (B,CD,G) (Mrs M Stade) D Elsworth 7-10-0	P Holley	87
18	1U40-0F	SUMMERHILL SPECIAL 8 (D,S) (Mrs N Dutfield) Mrs P Dutfield 4-10-0	A McCabe	92
19	453122-	TOP CEES 49F (D,G) (R Sangster) Mrs J Ramsden 5-10-0	M Perrett	89
20	6510-35	KEEP ME IN MIND 16 (D,F,S) (P Tory) N Mitchell 6-10-0	D Skyrme	90
21	6F6-234	BOOKCASE 21 (D,F,G) (Adept Ltd) D Elsworth 8-10-0	A Procter (3)	97
22	32231P	CHICAGO'S BEST 29 (B,D,F,G) (A Bosley) K Wingrove 8-10-0	J Ryan	82

Long handicap: Statajack 9-13, Summerhill Special 9-11, Top Cees 9-10, Keep Me In Mind 9-10, Bookcase 9-8, Chicago's Best 9-3

BETTING: 4-1 Bimsey, 6-1 Chief's Song, Squire Silk, 8-1 Sublime Fellow, Top Cees, 10-1 Eskimo Nel, 12-1 Lonesome Train, Romancer, 14-1 Admiral's Well, Stompin, 16-1 Albemine, 20-1 Thinking Twice, 25-1 others.

1994: RELKEEL 5-10-2 A Maguire (4-5 fav) D Nicholson 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

BIMSEY beat Thornton Gate 12l in 9-runner handicap hurdle at Aintree (2m 110yd, good to firm). SQUIRE SILK beat BOOKCASE (4lb worse off) 2½l in 5-runner handicap hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, good) on penultimate start. LONESOME TRAIN beat Express Gift 1¼l in 15-runner handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, good) with BOOKCASE (14lb better off) 8l 4th, ROMANCER (6lb better off) 1¼l 5th, WHITE WILLOW (7lb better off) 5½l 7th, CHIEF'S SONG (9lb better off) 5l 9th, SUMMERHILL SPECIAL (14lb better off) 36l 11th, DREAMS END (11lb better off) 15l 12th, STOMPIN (6lb better off) 20l 13th and ADMIRAL'S WELL (8lb better off) pulled up before 6th. ESKIMO NEL completed treble, beat Windward Ariom 8l in 10-runner handicap hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, good) where SUMMERHILL SPECIAL (7lb better off) fell 3 out. CHIEF'S SONG beat Putty Road 3l in 4-runner conditions hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, good). SUBLIME FELLOW 4l 2nd of 11 to Non Vintage in handicap hurdle at Ascot (2m 110yd, good) with GOLDEN ARROW (10lb better off) 10½l 4th (later promoted to 3rd), STATAJACK (9lb better off) 17½l 8th and THINKING TWICE (10lb better off) 8l 10th. ALBEMINE 6l 3rd of 10 to Elllaa in handicap hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m, good to firm). TOP CEES short-head 2nd of 10 to Blast Freeze in handicap hurdle at Doncaster (3m 110yd, good). Selection: SQUIRE SILK

3.40 ESHER NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (C4)
(£7,360: 2m 110yd) (8 runners)

1	23-211	SIMPLY DASHING 14 (D,F,G) (S Hammond) M H Easterby 4-11-10	R Garritty	92
2	025/1	NOVA RUN 10 (D,G) (S Keeling) N Henderson 6-11-8	M A Fitzgerald	84
3	5-321	NEVER SO BLUE 14 (D,F) (P Bradley) P Bradley 4-11-5	R Dunwoody	91
4	3514-04	STEVE FORD 30 (D,G) (P Morgan) C Nash 6-11-3	A P McCoy	94
5	341	LA MENORQUINA 19 (D,G) (J Arden) D Marks 5-11-1	C Llewellyn	82
6	30-32	MISTER O'GRADY 33 (City Industrial Supplies) R Akehurst 4-11-0	S Ryan (7)	91
7	00/0611	ANLACE 7 (D,F,G) (Felix Bowness Partners) S Mellor 6-10-9	M Perrett	99
8	3P08-6P	DODGY DANCER 3 (B) (Halewood International) M Usher 5-10-6	W Marston	94

BETTING: 3-1 Nova Run, 7-2 Simply Dashing, 4-1 Anlace, 5-1 La Menorquina, Mister O'Grady, 10-1 Never So Blue, 14-1 Steve Ford, 33-1 Dodgy Dancer.

1994: INCHCAILLOCH 5-11-1 J Osborne (4-1) J King 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

SIMPLY DASHING beat Highland Park 7l in 4-runner novices handicap hurdle at Aintree (2m 4f, good to firm). NOVA RUN beat Oldhill Wood 8l in 7-runner novice hurdle at Windsor (2m, good). NEVER SO BLUE beat Pair of Jacks 3½l in 4-runner ladies handicap hurdle at Nottingham (2m, firm). STEVE FORD 12½l 4th of 9 to Dancing Dove in conditional jockeys handicap hurdle at Market Rasen (2m 1l 110yd, good to firm). LA MENORQUINA beat Rival Bid ¾l in 13-runner novice hurdle at Leicester (2m, good). MISTER O'GRADY 10l 2nd of 13 to Royal Thimble in novice hurdle at Plumpton (2m 1l, good to firm). ANLACE beat Wixoe Wonder 3l in 12-runner novices handicap hurdle at Warwick (2m, good). Selection: ANLACE

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
A Turnell	7	17	41.2	R Dunwoody	27	96	28.1
P Nicholls	4	10	40.0	W Marston	4	16	25.0
D Nicholson	27	71	38.0	P Niven	3	18	16.7
Mrs M Reveley	6	17	35.3	M Perrett	6	39	15.4
J Gifford	24	118	20.3	C Llewellyn	5	37	13.5
Miss H Knight	4	21	19.0	G Bradley	6	48	12.5

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Chepstow: 2.40 Stretchit. Sandown Park: 3.40 Dodgy Dancer. Towcester: 1.55 Ricasword. Wetherby: 12.40 Tilty, 2.10 River Bee, 3.15 Combellino. Wolverhampton: 1.50 Legatee, 2.55 Sea Victor, Hebeeb Alshemaal, 3.25 Caples, 3.55 Flood's Fancy, 4.25 Halliard, Newbury Coat, 5.25 Sparkling Roberta.

CHEPSTOW

THUNDERER

1.00 Ottowa	2.40 Manolete
1.30 General Wolfe	3.10 Garrylough
2.05 Master Oats	3.45 Nahla

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-5 ... B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing: F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (CHASE COURSE); SOFT (HURDLES) SIS

1.00 CARLING BLACK LABEL HANDICAP HURDLE (BBC1)
(£5,410: 2m 4f 110yd) (16 runners)

1	31/224-0	SUN SURFER 15 (G,S) (S Sainsbury) T Forster 7-12-0	D Bridgwater	96
2	4/30/00-	GIVENTIME 262 (S) (L Kimber) A Turnell 7-11-6	L Harvey	92
3	00/215-1	IDIOT'S LADY 14 (G,S) (Mrs J Ollivant) Mrs J Pitman 6-11-5	R Farrant	95
4	21112P-	TREASURE AGAIN 239 (C,S) (J Gwynne) Mrs M Jones 6-11-3	D Byrne	97
5	151245-	BELLS LIFE 227 (D,S) (R Gibbs) P Hobbs 6-11-0	G Tormey (3)	92
6	/4131/R	THE WIDGET MAN 17 (D,F,G,S) (A Illsley) J Gifford 9-10-13	P Hide	–
7	1204/5/	INDIAN QUEST 536F (S) (J L Racing) N Gaselee 6-10-12	J Osborne	–
8	34F4P/P	AMAZON EXPRESS 11 (G) (T Morris) P Bowen 6-10-8	DOUBTFUL	–
9	10203-6	WHO IS EQUINAME 19 (S) (L Wilson) N Henderson 5-10-8	NON-RUNNER	–
10	450-014	NEW CO 7 (D,G,S) (Mrs L Ronan) M Morris (Ire) 7-10-7	C O'Dwyer	–
11	1/135-22	OTTOWA 16 (BF,G,S) (P Barber) P Nicholls 5-10-6	C Maude	90
12	12-2222	NEW INN 19 (F) (I Stewart) S Gollings 4-10-5	D Bentley	98
13	135P-32	VERYVEL 11 (S) (D Lewis) Mrs L Murphy 4-10-2	S McNeill	99
14	2121F1/	FRENCH CHARMER 591 (G,S) (H Pelham) J Gifford 10-10-1	P Hide	–
15	3253-54	THE MINDER 18 (S) (G Edwards) G Edwards 8-10-0	D Salter (5)	89
16	021534-	FOX CHAPEL 262 (D,G,S) (B Hane) R Juckes 8-10-0	Guy Lewis (3)	81

Long handicap: The Minder 9-5, Fox Chapel 8-12

BETTING: 7-2 Idiot's Lady, 5-1 Treasure Again, 6-1 Veryvel, Who Is Equiname, 8-1 New Inn, Ottowa, 10-1 Sun Surfer, 12-1 Bells Life, Indian Quest, New Co, 14-1 Giventime, 16-1 French Charmer, 20-1 others.

1994: SECOND CALL 5-10-6 R Farrant (9-1) T Forster 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

IDIOT'S LADY beat Sheriff 4l in 3-runner handicap hurdle at Ascot (3m, good). BELLS LIFE 5½l 2nd of 7 to No When To Run in novice hurdle at Navan (3m, soft to heavy) last season. INDIAN QUEST 24l 5th of 6 to High Baron in limited handicap hurdle at Ascot (2m 110yd, good) March 1994. NEW CO 10½l 4th of 12 to Final Run in handicap hurdle at Punchestown (2m 4f, yielding). NEW INN 7l 2nd of 7 to Nahri in handicap hurdle at Leicester (2m, good) with WHO IS EQUINAME (1lb better off) 23l 6th. VERYVEL 8l 2nd of 5 to Nahthen Lad in handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 5f, good). Selection: NEW CO

1.30 JACK BROWN BOOKMAKER HANDICAP CHASE (BBC1)
(£7,220: 3m 2f 110yd) (9 runners)

1	1121R-1	GREENHILL TARE AWAY 21 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs P Payne) P Hobbs 7-11-10	Peter Hobbs	92
2	12U6P-F	MAD THYME 16 (B,S) (R Jenks) N Gaselee 8-11-8	J R Kavanagh	88
3	21124P-	VICOMPT DE VALMONT 259 (B,D,G,S) (J Blackwell) P Nicholls 10-11-8	C Maude	89
4	26-5214	THREE BROWNIES 14 (B,G,S) (Mrs A Daly) M Morris (Ire) 8-11-2	C O'Dwyer	87
5	P/PP2-46	MAILCOM 16 (D,F,S) (Mailcom Plc) Mrs J Pitman 9-11-1	R Farrant	99
6	UP3P-U6	CYTHERE 21 (CD,S) (K Carr) J Gifford 11-11-1	P Hide	85
7	243322-	DIAMOND FORT 182 (D,F,B,S) (Mrs R Stocks) J McConnochie 10-10-11	S McNeill	91
8	41/U411-	GENERAL WOLFE 248 (G,S) (The Winning Line) T Forster 6-10-8	D Bridgwater	97
9	PF11U2-	JURASSIC CLASSIC 266 (D,S) (B Seal) Mrs L Richards 8-10-2	J Osborne	92

BETTING: 7-4 Greenhill Tare Away, 4-1 General Wolfe, 9-2 Mad Thyme, 6-1 Three Brownies, Vicompt De Valmont, 12-1 Mailcom, 14-1 others

1994: JUDGES FANCY 10-10-0 D Bridgwater (11-1) N Twiston-Davies 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

GREENHILL TARE AWAY beat Gillan Cove 1l in 6-runner handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (3m 2f, good). MAD THYME beat Maamur 8l in 11-runner novice chase at Uttoxeter (3m 7l, soft) last season with GENERAL WOLFE (8lb better off) 7¾l 4th. VICOMPT DE VALMONT 6l 2nd of 7 to Wittsford in handicap chase at Warwick (3m 5l, soft) last season. THREE BROWNIES 17¼l 4th of 8 to Gimme Five in handicap chase at Navan (3m, good). MAILCOM neck 2nd of 9 to Real Progress in handicap chase at Uttoxeter (3m 2l, good) last season. GENERAL WOLFE beat Buckslight short-head in 17-runner novices' handicap chase at Worcester (3m 7l, good) last season. Selection: GREENHILL TARE AWAY

2.05 REHEARSAL CHASE (BBC1)
(Grade II: limited handicap: £15,300: 3m) (4 runners)

1	1/11110-	MASTER OATS 238 (CD,G,S) (P Matthews) K Bailey 9-12-0	J Osborne	99
2	2152F-0	BRADBURY STAR 21 (F,G,S) (J Campbell) J Gifford 10-11-2	P Hide	98
3	163U54-	KATABATIC 240 (C,F,G,S) (Pell-mell Partners) J Gifford 12-10-7	S McNeill	60
4	423854	GRANGE BRAKE 7 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs J Mould) N Twiston-Davies 9-10-7	D Walsh (5)	50

Long handicap: Katabatic 9-10, Grange Brake 8-6

BETTING: 10-11 Master Oats, 7-4 Bradbury Star, 5-1 Katabatic, 14-1 Grange Brake

1994: MASTER OATS 8-11-4 N Williamson (3-1) K Bailey 5 ran

FORM FOCUS

MASTER OATS best effort beat Dubacilla 15l in grade I Tote Cheltenham Gold Cup (3m 2f 110yd, soft). BRADBURY STAR best effort beat Second Schedual head in grade III Mackeson Gold Cup at Cheltenham (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft). KATABATIC best effort last season 22½l 5th of 10 to Viking Flagship in the grade I Queen Mother Champion Chase at Cheltenham (2m, soft). GRANGE BRAKE 34½l 4th of 11 to Couldnt Be Better in the grade III Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup Handicap Chase at Newbury (3m 2f 110yd, soft). Selection: BRADBURY STAR

2.40 GOOD LUCK NOVICES SELLING HURDLE
(£2,220: 2m 4f 110yd) (10 runners)

1	2-0PP	CAVALERO 10 (H Manners) H Manners 6-11-0	Mr A Charles-Jones	–
2	32P6-3P	DESERT PRESIDENT 16 (P Mooney) R Hoad 4-11-0	S Curran (3)	99
3	30400-0	LAW FACULTY 14 (North Liverpool Racing Partnership) G Ham 6-11-0	R Farrant	82
4	25	MANOLETE 19 (Miss J Ewer) J Fitch-Heyes 4-11-0	G Tormey (3)	98
5	500U0F	MIRAMARE 14 (Major R Thorman) C James 5-11-0	S McNeill	–
6		SECRET ASSIGNMENT 26F (M Low) R Curtis 5-11-0	D Morris	–
7	04-052	STRETCHIT 25 (B) (R Bellamy) D McCain 5-11-0	D McCain	67
8	53-P0	TEMPS PERDU 19 (B) (Elite Racing Club) M Pipe 4-11-0	J Osborne	81
9	F5	BABY ELEGANCE 141 (Mrs L Murphy) P Murphy 4-10-9	E Murphy	–
10	040P-P	RED POINT 32 (Business Forms Express) K Bishop 4-10-9	M Moran (7)	83

BETTING: 7-4 Manolete, 9-2 Law Faculty, 6-1 Desert President, 8-1 Temps Perdu, 10-1 Miramare, Baby Elegance, 12-1 others

1994: EVANGELICA 4-11-9 R Dunwoody (2-5 fav) M Pipe 12 ran

3.10 FLURRY KNOX NOVICES CHASE (£3,488: 2m 3f 110yd) (8 runners)

1	1/23P64-	BALLY CLOVER 215 (G,S) (J Williams) Miss V Williams 8-11-0	R Davis	99
2	31426/2	BOND JNR 18 (G,S) (P Barber) P Nicholls 6-11-0	R Farrant	95
3	01135-	CALL IT A DAY 238 (S) (Mrs J Lane) D Nicholson 5-11-0	D Bridgwater	–
4		FELLOW COUNTRYMAN 858P (S) (A Wardall) K Bailey 8-11-0	S McNeill	–
5	64611-4	HOLY STING 56 (S) (G MacEchern) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-0	C Maude	–
6	11/5F2-P	MAESTRO PAUL 28 (F,G,S) (H Pelham) J Gifford 9-11-0	P Hide	72
7	32265-2	GARRYLOUGH 21 (BF,G) (T Whitley) D Gandolfo 6-10-9	J Osborne	86
8	3	GOLDEN OLIVE 14 (Mrs M Grant) P Webber 6-10-9	G McCourt	–

BETTING: 11-4 Call It A Day, 4-1 Garrylough, 9-2 Bond Jnr, Fellow Countryman, 5-1 Holy Sting, Maestro Paul, 7-1 others

1994: REALLY A RASCAL 7-11-5 M Fitzgerald (11-2) D Gandolfo 9 ran

3.45 DECEMBER MAIDEN HURDLE
(£3,248: 2m 110yd) (16 runners)

1	505-234	AMBER VALLEY 19 (Berkshire Components) D Williams 4-11-9	J Osborne	99
2		COME ON RISK ME 409F (H Ormesher) D McCain 4-11-0	D McCain	–
3	0-	FREELINE LUSTRE 192 (I Sinel) N Henderson 5-11-0	J R Kavanagh	–
4		GRANBY BELL 26F (H Walton) P Hayward 4-11-0	Peter Hobbs	–
5	0-3	KEMILLER 8 (Mrs S Catherwood) D Nicholson 5-11-0	Mr G E Smith (7)	82
6		KUMARI KING (J McKenna) A Carroll 5-11-0	D Morris	–
7		LORD ROOBLE (The Findon Partnership) J Gifford 4-11-0	P Hide	–
8	2021-	LOTTERY TICKET 217 (S) (A Parker) J Edwards 6-11-0	D Bentley	–
9		POTENTATE 422F (J Weeden) M Pipe 4-11-0	D Bridgwater	–
10	P	STRONG GLEN 16 (P Wegmann) P Wegmann 7-11-0	S Fowler (7)	–
11	04P	THEWELLSTEPS 16 (H Jones) P Bowen 6-11-0	R Farrant	–
12		GOLOUR OF LIFE 1146F (R Gardner-Brown) N Lampard 5-10-9	Mr L Baker (7)	–
13	P	EDINA 15 (D Yardy) K Bailey 5-10-9	S McNeill	–
14	5-060P	FLY IN AMBER 14 (C ffrench Davis) D ffrench Davis 4-10-9	J Magee (3)	–
15	221/0	NAHLA 21 (S) (The Safe Sid Mass) J Doyle 5-10-9	S Curran (3)	83
16	0	OATIS ROSE 17 (A Fogg) M Sheppard 5-10-9	G Tormey (3)	–

BETTING: 4-1 Potentate, 5-1 Freeline Lustre, 6-1 Lottery Ticket, 7-1 Amber Valley, Lord Rooble, 8-1 Kemiller, Nahla, 20-1 others.

1994: HOPS AND POPS 7-10-9 S Earle (11-4) R Alner 13 ran

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
D Nicholson	11	39	28.2	G McCourt	4	20	20.0
M Pipe	53	201	26.4	J R Kavanagh	3	20	15.0
N Twiston-Davies	19	92	20.7	P Hide	5	34	14.7
P Hobbs	14	69	20.3	D Bridgwater	7	52	13.5
K Bailey	3	16	18.8	R Farrant	4	31	12.9
J Edwards	4	23	17.4	C Maude	5	45	11.1

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W'HAMPTON	105	205	305
IRISH	120	220	320

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RACING NEXT WEEK

MONDAY: Edinburgh (first race, 12.30), Ludlow (12.45).

TUESDAY: Huntingdon (12.30), Plumpton (12.15).

WEDNESDAY: Lingfield Park (AW, 1.10), Leicester (1.00), Sedgefield (12.50).

THURSDAY: Fakenham (12.40), Nottingham (12.30), Taunton (12.50).

FRIDAY: Cheltenham (C4, 12.20), Doncaster (12.15), Hexham (12.25).

SATURDAY: Cheltenham (C4, 12.50), Doncaster (12.10), Haydock Park (BBC, 12.30), Lingfield Park (12.15), Wolverhampton (AW, 7.00).

Flat meetings in bold

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Sandown Park

Going: good to firm

12.50 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Call Equiname (A P McCoy, 9-4 fav, Thunderer's nap); 2, Crack On (5-1); 3, None Stirred (10-1). 10 ran. NR: Mywend's. 4l, 12l. P Nicholls. Tote: £2.60; £1.40, £1.70, £2.60. DF: £4.80. Trio £53.80. CSF: £13.09.

1.25 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, Dark Honey (R Dunwoody, 6-4); 2, Sharp Performer (8-13 fav). 2 ran. 30l. S Dow. Tote: £1.90

2.00 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, Lonesome Glory (Blythe Miller, 11-4); 2, Egypt Mill Prince (8-11 fav); 3, King Credo (10-1). 4 ran. 11l, 15l. C Brooks. Tote: £3.20. DF: £2.30. CSF: £5.35

2.30 (2m 6f hdle) 1, See More Business (A P McCoy, 15-8 fav); 2, Father Sky (9-4); 3, Eulogy (11-2). 5 ran. 15l, hd. P Nicholls. Tote: £2.80; £1.60, £2.00. DF: £3.80. CSF: £6.47

3.00 (3m 5f 110yd ch) 1, Willsford (W Marston, 4-1); 2, Flyer's Nap (11-4 fav); 3, Mere Class (11-1). 9 ran. 1½l, 1¼l. Mrs J Pitman. Tote: £3.50; £1.90, £1.70, £3.20. DF: £5.40. Trio: £112.00. CSF: £14.48. Tricast: £99.38.

3.30 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Alltime Dancer (J Osborne, 7-4 fav); 2, Darter (5-2); 3, Vario (9-2). 11 ran. 6l, ½l. O Sherwood. Tote: £3.20; £1.60, £1.80, £1.80. DF: £3.80. Trio: £5.10. CSF: £6.63. After a stewards' inquiry, result stood.

Placepot: £40.70. Quadpot: £10.50.

Exeter

Going: good to soft, good in places

1.20 (2m 2f hdle) 1, Hightown Cavalier (J Harris, 14-1); 2, River Leven (5-1); 3, Shaand (8-1). Run Henry Run 11-4 fav. 10 ran. 2l, 15l. R Hodges. Tote: £31.30; £3.80, £1.90, £2.40. DF: £29.90. Trio: £147.10. CSF: £74.18. Tricast: £542.69.

1.50 (2m 2f ch) 1, Sophism (Jamie Evans, 11-2); 2, Sovereign Niche (11-2); 3, Rather Sharp (4-1). Turpin's Green 5-2 fav. 9 ran. 9l, 6l. M Pipe. Tote: £6.60; £2.90, £1.60, £1.60. DF: £14.20. Trio: £13.20. CSF: £33.19. Tricast: £121.67.

2.20 (2m 2f ch) 1, Pimberley Place (C Llewellyn, 3-1); 2, Sorrel Hill (14-1); 3, Pearl's Choice (16-1). Shining Light 9-4 fav. 9 ran. NR: Lightening Lad. ½l, 6l. N Twiston-Davies. Tote: £3.70; £1.40, £3.50, £3.80. DF: £37.00. Trio: £159.10. CSF: £39.58.

2.50 (2m 7f 110yd ch) 1, Harwell Lad (Mr R Nuttall, 5-4 fav); 2, Silvonno (20-1); 3, Barely Black (33-1). 15 ran. 4l, 13l. R Alner. Tote: £2.10; £1.80, £7.50, £3.10. DF: £50.40. Trio: £564.00. CSF: £26.51. Tricast: £560.82.

3.20 (2m 2f hdle) 1, High Learie (J A McCarthy, 16-1); 2, Trail Boss (8-1); 3, Whirly (12-1). Jet Boys 9-4 fav. 18 ran. 5l, 11l. O Sherwood. Tote: £77.40; £13.80, £4.90, £5.10. DF: £244.30. CSF: £152.80. Trio: not won (pool of £301.31 carried forward to 3.10 at Sandown today).

3.50 (2m 2f hdle) 1, Spring Saint (C Maude, 4-1); 2, Perhaps (7-2 fav); 3, Formfino (16-1). 15 ran. 1½l, ½l. Miss C Horler. Tote: £6.60; £2.30, £2.10, £6.60. DF: £11.90. Trio: £117.30. CSF: £18.20. Tricast: £186.15.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £10,819.36 carried forward to Wolverhampton today).

Placepot: £4,168.70.

Quadpot: £225.30 (part won; pool of £182.70 carried forward to Wolverhampton today).

Southwell

Going: standard

12.40 (1m 3f) 1, Wildfire (J Quinn, 9-2); 2, Lam Fort (9-1); 3, Roseberry Topping (10-1). Father Dan 6-4 fav. 11 ran. 5l, 4l. R Akehurst. Tote: £6.20; £2.00, £4.00, £2.60. DF: £35.20. Trio: £130.60. CSF: £45.07. Tricast: £367.07.

1.10 (5f) 1, Krystal Max (Kimberley Hart, 16-1); 2, Mullagh Hill Lad (3-1 fav); 3, Chemteehouse Xpres (5-1). 12 ran. Nk, 2l. T Barron. Tote: £25.70; £5.70, £1.90, £2.60. DF: £86.50. Trio: £83.10. CSF: £65.05. Tricast: £267.20.

1.40 (1m 6f) 1, Rose Of Glenn (R Perham, 3-1); 2, Skodsadie (7-2); 3, Ann Hill (14-1). Who's The Best 6-4 fav. 7 ran. 10l, 1¾l. B Palling. Tote: £4.20; £2.00, £1.90. DF: £6.40. CSF: £13.59.

2.10 (1m 3f) 1, Beaumont (J Quinn, 7-2 jt-fav); 2, Risky Tu (4-1); 3, Calder King (6-1). Let's Get Lost 7-2 jt-fav. 8 ran. NR: Jarrow, Nijmegen. 1¾l, 1l. J Banks. Tote: £5.10; £1.70, £1.10, £1.30. DF: £10.60. Trio: £13.60. CSF: £17.45. Tricast: £74.39.

2.40 (1m) 1, Rood Music (F Norton, 7-1); 2, Chairmans Choice (10-1); 3, Bagshot (8-1). 4, Secret Aly (8-1). 16 ran. ½l, hd. M Meagher. Tote: £6.80; £1.50, £4.00, £3.00, £2.20. DF: £46.00. Trio: £135.80. CSF: £74.79. Tricast: £537.93.

3.10 (1m) 1, People Direct (J Fanning, 5-1); 2, Takapuna (8-1); 3, Hannahs Bay (16-1). Belle Of Holland 5-6 fav. 7 ran. 10l, 1¾l. K McAuliffe. Tote: £6.40; £3.00, £3.10. DF: £18.90. CSF: £32.95. Bought in 4,800gns.

3.40 (6f) 1, Master Fire Eyes (J Quinn, 2-1 fav); 2, Peggy Spencer (7-2); 3, Sweet Mate (8-1). 11 ran. 3l, 1¾l. C Britain. Tote: £2.80; £1.50, £2.20, £2.00. DF: £8.10. Trio: £22.10. CSF: £9.53. Tricast: £42.36.

Placepot: £1,471.30.

Quadpot: not won (pool of £38.00 carried forward to Wolverhampton today).

هكذا من الأصل

Lonesome Glory wins friends with sparkling success



HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Blythe Miller is all smiles after her fine victory on Lonesome Glory in the Crowngap Construction Handicap Chase at Sandown yesterday

American chaser just dandy

BY JULIAN MUSCAT

A MARVELLOUS card at Sandown yesterday was capped by a scintillating victory from Lonesome Glory, the American challenger, whose speed from the last fence left his immediate victim, Egypt Mill Prince, simply gasping for air.

The pair jumped the last two fences in the Crowngap Construction Handicap Chase as a team. But Blythe Miller was only biding her time aboard the little American chestnut. Let loose on the run-in, Lonesome Glory, now running from the Charlie Brooks stable, romped home by 11 lengths, demonstrating just why he has earned rave reviews in his home land.

It was at the Pond fence, the third from home, that Egypt Mill Prince looked a spent force. The horse who fought out that memorable duel with Dublin Flyer at Cheltenham three weeks ago just could not contain Lonesome Glory as the seven-year-old bounded clear with a youthful zest. Granted, Lonesome Glory was almost certainly well handicapped, but there is no doubting his ability.

It looked ominous for the American challenger early in the race. Faced with his first sighting of British birch — he won over hurdles at Cheltenham in 1992 — Lonesome Glory climbed with the dexterity of a mountaineer. It was safe, if unspectacular stuff, but an entirely different hue was evident when Miller took control.

"We've been trying to get Blythe to attack her fences," Brooks said. And Miller, 27, had obviously heeded the message. The Railway fences at Sandown will tax any horse, yet Lonesome Glory took lengths out of Egypt Mill Prince and Remittance Man, both recognised for the springs in their heels. It was quite a transformation; Corals reacted by offering Lonesome Glory at 33-1 for the Cheltenham Gold Cup.

The plan for Lonesome Glory, who has been with Brooks for two weeks, is to race here for as long as he thrives. Doubtless the handicapper will have his say, although only a xenophobe would begrudge this victory.

"He is exceptional," Miller said. "We would have been happy just to get round but he eased himself into it. He was jumping from a much longer stride than usual but he is very clever." He has certainly brought warmth to the British winter. Remittance Man, making his first appearance for 20 months, enjoyed himself for two miles before tiring badly.

The Cheltenham Festival is three months distant but See More Business put himself among the frontline contenders for the Sun Alliance Hurdle with a thumping victory in the Crowngap Winter Novices' Hurdle over 2¾ miles. The five-year-old possesses the rare combination of bottomless stamina and a lethal turn of foot.

There is no finer prospect among the aspiring staying chasers than See More Business, already twice a winner in the point-to-point arena. His part owner, Paul Barber, might yet be had up for robbery, for he positively "stole" the horse for 5,600 guineas at the Doncaster sales.

If he is one for the future, the career of Willsford knows no boundaries. Willsford was winning at the Cheltenham Festival before See More Business was but a figment of his breeder's imagination, and the gelding, just weeks from his thirteenth birthday, subdued some notably rugged opposition in the P & O Handicap Chase. It was a career-best performance from the sprightly gelding: were it that we could all be as honest in old age.

WOLVERHAMPTON

THUNDERER

1.50 Tilly Owl. 2.20 Uoni. 2.55 At Liberty. 3.25 Tarawa. 3.55 Vera's First. 4.25 Blue Sioux. 4.55 Tart. 5.25 Summer Villa.

GOING: STANDARD — DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE — SIS

1.50 DESERT ORCHID FILLIES HANDICAP
(Div I: £2,187: 7f) (12 runners)

101 231 CASHMERE LADY 19 (C,G) J Eyre 3-10-0 ..... R Lappin 2
102 0000 LEGATEE 72 (V,CD,F,G) A Streeter 4-9-10 ..... R Cochrane 1
103 0014 ANITA'S CONTESSA 12 (D,G) B Palling 3-9-10 ..... R Perham 4
104 2614 GENTLE IRONY 39 (B,D,F,G,S) B Meehan 3-9-7 ..... R Hughes 7
105 0033 LADY SILK 12 (BF,G,S) Miss J Craze 4-9-1 ..... S Webster 3
106 5500 PALACEGATE JO 77 (C,G,S) D Chapman 4-9-0 ..... A Culhane 12
107 5002 AGGER 38 C Britain 3-9-0 ..... J Quinn 6
108 0606 NEVER SUCH BLISS 12 J Bethell 3-8-11 ..... L Dettori 11
109 6002 RABA 12 (G) Mrs N Macauley 7-8-6 ... Amanda Sanders (7) 9
110 2150 TILLY OWL 133 (CD,G) J A Harris 4-8-6 ..... S D Williams 5
111 1602 IRCHESTER LASS 8 (B,F,G) S Bowring 3-8-3 ..... N Carlisle 8
112 0-42 WARWICK MIST 143 (BF) P Haslam 3-7-13 .. Dale Gibson 10

7-2 Cashmere Lady, 5-1 Agger, Irchester Lass, 6-1 Gentle Irony, 7-1 others.

2.20 GOODYEAR MAIDEN STAKES
(Div I: 2-Y-O: £2,965: 1m 100yd) (10)

201 0 BALIOS 44 M Johnston 9-0 ..... T Williams 7
202 00 BELLE'S BOY 26 B Palling 9-0 ..... G Carter 9
203 56 CHALCUCHIMA 53 R Charlton 9-0 ..... D Harrison 4
204 6 LOCH STYLE 12 R Hollinshead 9-0 ..... T Ives 1
205 0 MAESTRO TIME 26 T Barron 9-0 ..... J Fortune 6
206 035 NITEOWL RAIDER 39 J A Harris 9-0 ..... S D Williams 8
207 00 DANGEROUS WATERS 21 P Murphy 8-9 .. R Winterfield (7) 10
208 9 DICENTRA 12 E Weymes 8-9 ..... Dale Gibson 5
209 82 THE FULLBANGLADESH 26 (BF) J Eyre 8-9 ..... R Lappin 2
210 03 UONI 11 C Britain 8-9 ..... J Quinn 3

7-4 Uoni, 3-1 The Fullbangladesh, Chalcuchima, 6-1 Loch Style, 7-1 Niteowl Raider, 8-1 Balios, 10-1 others.

2.55 PLYVINE CATERING HANDICAP C4
(3-Y-O: £10,358: 1m 4f) (12)

301 (1) 0260 LORD JIM 77 (D,S) Miss G Kelleway 9-7 .. R Cochrane 89
302 (2) 1200 BETTERGETON 63 (F,G) P Bevan 9-2 ..... N Carlisle 98
303 (5) 1440 AT LIBERTY 129 (G) R Hannon 9-2 ..... R Perham 92
304 (12) 10-0 EVEZIO RUFO 224 (S) N Littmoden 9-1 T G McLaughlin 89
305 (8) 4005 HEATHYARDS ROCK 31J (V,C,G) R Hollinshead 8-13 T Ives 90
306 (6) 0315 BINT ZAMAYEM 37 (BF,S) S Hills 8-10 ..... M Hills 92
307 (9) 0501 RIVER KEEN 24 (F,G) R Armstrong 8-6 ..... R Price 98
308 (3) 0012 FAIRY KNIGHT 26 (F) R Hannon 8-6 ..... Dane O'Neill (5) 87
309 (4) 3613 HEBOOB ALSHEMAAL 11 (BF,D) J Gosden 8-6 L Dettori 94
310 (10) 2132 SEA VICTOR 18 (V,F,G) J L Harris 8-2 ..... S Sanders 85
311 (11) 2061 FAR AHEAD 11 (B,S) J Eyre 8-2 ..... R Lappin 99
312 (7) -662 MISTINGUETT 52 (G) D Loder 8-1 ..... D R McCabe (3) 94

5-2 Heboob Alshemaal, 7-2 Bint Zamayem, 6-1 River Keen, 8-1 Far Ahead, Al Liberty, 10-1 Sea Victor, Fairy Knight, 12-1 others.

FORM FOCUS: BETTERGETON ½l 2nd of 10 to Hayyee in handicap at Ascot (1m, good to firm), July 1995. AT LIBERTY about ¾l 4th of 20 to Diaghilef in handicap at Royal Ascot (1m 4f, good to firm) on penultimate start. BINT ZAMAYEM beat Mam Offender 3½l in maiden at Newbury (1m 2f, good to soft) on penultimate start. RIVER KEEN beat South Eastern Fred 1l in handicap at Lingfield (AW, 1m 2f). FAIRY KNIGHT neck 2nd of 18 to Ayunli in handicap at Folkestone (1m 4f, good to firm). SEA VICTOR 6l 2nd of 8 to Jarasch in handicap at Lingfield (AW, 2m). FAR AHEAD beat Bentleaf ¾l in 8-runner conditions race at Lingfield (AW, 1m 2f) with HEBOOB ALSHEMAAL (11lb worse off) short-head 3rd. MISTINGUETT 2½l 2nd of 18 to Debutante Days in handicap at Haydock (1m 2f 120yd, good to soft) with HEBOOB ALSHEMAAL (3lb worse off) 5¾l 5th.
Selection: FAR AHEAD

3.25 BASS WULFRUN STAKES C4
(Listed race: £32,507: 1m 1f 79yd) (13)

401 (12) 0004 PRINCE OF ANDROS 20 (F,G,S) D Loder 5-9-6 R Hughes 96
402 (9) 1350 MR MARTINI 20 (F,G) C Britain 5-9-4 ..... T Ives 88
403 (6) 1262 CAPIAS 28 (V,BF,F,G) J Gosden 4-9-2 ..... L Dettori 98
404 (5) 6001 CELESTIAL KEY 35 (F,G) M Johnston 5-9-2 ... M Hills 93
405 (3) 3100 BAND ON THE RUN 49 (F,S,S) B McMahon 8-9-0 G Carter 86
406 (4) 3502 DESERT GREEN 68 (F) R Hannon 6-9-0 ..... R Perham 87
407 (10) 0545 ERTILON 35 (F,G) C Brittain 5-9-0 ..... J Quinn 74
408 (1) 0025 KING RAT 32 (B,C,F,G) T Etherington 4-9-0 .... C Rutter 77

TOWCESTER

THUNDERER

12.25 Ice Cold In Alex. 12.55 Lambson. 1.25 Sartorius. 1.55 Crane Hill. 2.30 Maamur. 3.05 Alternation. 3.35 Reverse Thrust.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT — SIS

12.25 BAUKNECHT HOME APPLIANCES NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE
(Div I: £3,050: 2m 5f) (16 runners)

1 345- BALLYEA BOY 253 D Nicholson 5-10-12 ..... R Johnson (5)
2 252- BUCKET OF GOLD 255 N Gaselee 5-10-12 ..... D Gallagher
3 P4/ COAL NOT DOLE 749 J Upson 7-10-12 ..... C Davies (7)
4 5023 COPPER COIL 11 W S M Turner 5-10-12 ... M Griffiths (7)
5 00-3 FORTINA'S CONQUEST 52 B Smart 5-10-12 .. M Molloy (7)
6 F5-6 HAL'S PRINCE 28 J Needham 8-10-12 ..... G Hogan (3)
7 P-U1 HI HEDLEY 12 (F) G Hubbard 5-10-12 ..... K Gaule (3)
8 0-42 ICE COLD IN ALEX 14 W Jenks 4-10-12 ..... T Jenks
9 06-3 JOJO 10 D Brassell 5-10-12 ..... M Richards
10 03 JUST ALBERT 16 Mrs J Pitman 5-10-12 ..... I Lawrence
11 -0-56 LUGS BRANNIGAN 19 M Bradstock 6-10-12 ..... P Holley
12 0 NATIVE RAMBLER 73 (BF) Mrs M McCourt 5-10-12 G McCourt
13 -P5F NOW WE KNOW 28 (S,S) M Sheppard 7-10-12 ..... B Powell
14 60-3 PENNCALER 28 P Hobbs 5-10-12 ..... B Clifford
15 435- GEMMA'S WAGER 231 M Campion 5-10-7 ..... L Dace
16 00-3 VOODLIND 31 Mrs J Ramsden-Barons 5-10-7 ..... R Greene

7-2 Bucket Of Gold, 7-1 Jojo, 8-1 Ballyea Boy, Hi Hedley, 10-1 Ice Cold In Alex, Pennaler, 12-1 others.

12.55 KINGSWOOD KITCHENS CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,926: 2m) (10)

1 -03U STRONG JOHN 11 (F,G) G Hubbard 7-11-11 ..... K Gaule
2 2-00 ARCTIC LIFE 5 J Jenkins 6-11-9 ..... C Rae (3)
3 43-3 EULOGY 14 K Burke 8-11-7 ..... A Lamach
4 2023 VALISKY 3 (BF) R Lee 5-10-13 ..... R Johnson
5 6S-1 PRINCETHORPE 9 (D,F,S) B Cambidge 8-10-8 ... T J Murphy
6 6-P2 LAMBSON 9 (G) J Pearce 8-10-6 ..... P McLoughlin
7 6062 MISTER BLAKE 17 Mrs A Hamilton-Fairley 5-10-5 D Leahy
8 6625 LITTLE TINCTURE 7 (B) Mrs T M Skinner 5-10-5 Sophie Mitchell
9 64-2 IZACOMIN 21 D Geraghty 6-10-2 ..... B Grattan (3)
10 0/46 DISTANT HOME 3 A Jones 7-10-0 ..... G Hogan

3-1 Valsky, 4-1 Eulogy, Princethorpe, 6-1 Strong John, Lambson, 8-1 others.

1.25 KINGSWOOD KITCHENS HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,556: 2m 110yd) (7)

1 P43- DENVER BAY 349 (G) J Gifford 8-11-13 ..... D O'Sullivan
2 13P2 LAKE OF LOUGHREA 14 (F,G) K Bailey 5-11-6 T J Murphy (3)
3 3343 DR ROCKET 24 (CD,BF,F,G,S) R Dickin 10-11-2 .. D Meredith
4 -P33 SARTORIUS 7 (CD,F,G,S) T Thomson Jones 9-11-1 D Gallagher
5 2324 KING'S AN ACE 21 (D,F,S) Mrs J R-Barons 8-10-13 R Greene
6 25-3 PEYMER 10 (D,G,S) K Burke 8-10-13 ..... A Lamach (3)
7 512- YOUNG ALFIE 190 (B,CD,F,S) J Pearce 10-10-10 .. B Powell

7-4 Lake Of Loughrea, 7-2 Denver Bay, 9-2 Sartorius, 7-1 Dr Rocket, 8-1 others.

1.55 BAUKNECHT HOME APPLIANCES NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (Div II: £3,029: 2m 5f) (15)

1 -1P2 BUCKHOUSE BOY 10 (G) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-5 .. T Jenks
2 ASK ME KINDLY 268P D Sherwood 7-10-12 ..... M Richards
3 34-8 CRANE HILL 15 (B,BF) P Hobbs 5-10-12 ..... B Clifford
4 FASHION MAKER Mrs I McKie 5-10-12 ..... W McFarland
5 44 IMPERIAL VINTAGE 19 K Bailey 5-10-12 ..... T J Murphy (3)
6 65 JAC DEL PRINCE 18 P Nicholls 5-10-12 ..... D Gallagher
7 /05 KING'S COURTIER 10 S Mellor 6-10-12 Chris Webb (5)
8 4 LUKE WARM 37 D Gandolfo 5-10-12 ..... D Leahy
9 MAJORS LEGACY T Forster 6-10-12 ..... A Thornton
10 0 POUNDING SURF 18 Mrs J Renfree-Barnes 6-10-12 .. A Tory
11 00-6 RED LIGHTER 10 J Old 6-10-12 ..... T Grantham
12 0/P RICASWORD 10 (B) Mrs P Sly 6-10-12 ..... R Marley
13 /P0- ARDENT LOVE 317 O Brennan 6-10-7 ..... M Brennan
14 020- MISS DISKIN 222 R Buckler 6-10-7 ..... B Powell
15 00 SHADOW OF STEEL 24 R Stronge 5-10-7 ... S Lyons (3)

2-1 Buckhouse Boy, 7-1 Crane Hill, 6-1 Majors Legacy, Luke Warm, 10-1 others.

2.30 WHIRLPOOL HOME APPLIANCES HANDICAP CHASE (£5,335: 3m 1f) (13)

1 5F0- DO BE BRIEF 224 (B,CD,G,S) Mrs J Pitman 10-11-13 L Lawrence
2 F0-5 CAMELOT KNIGHT 16 (B,S) N Twiston-Davies 9-11-10 T Jenks
3 251- TORT 268 (CD,G,S) P Dalton 11-11-8 ..... B Powell
4 2PP- MATT REID 271 (B,D,G,S) J Leigh 11-11-2 ... Mr W Morgan
5 P-4U SPIKEY 14 (G) J Jenkins 9-11-1 ..... A Tory
6 11-U MAAMUR 16 (BF,G,S) T Forster 7-11-1 ..... A Thornton
7 8P0- BEAU BABILLARD 215 (G,S) P Nicholls 8-10-13 T Dascombe (5)
8 124- INVASION 203 (V,CD,F,G,S) O Brennan 11-10-13 ... M Brennan
9 FPYT FLORIDA SKY 20 (D,S) C Brooks 8-10-10 ..... D Gallagher
10 /P-1 SUFFOLK ROAD 14 (CD,F,G,S) R Rowe 8-10-10 ... D O'Sullivan
11 135- COUNTESS VERUSCHKA 259 (C,S) K Bailey 9-10-7 T Murphy (3)
12 UF-3 BUCKSHOT 11 (D,G,S) J Gifford 7-10-0 ..... Mr P O'Keeffe (7)
13 354- LENTHALL PRINCESS 210 (S) J Needham 9-10-0 G Hogan (3)

7-2 Florida Sky, 5-1 Suffolk Road, Do Be Brief, 8-1 Tort Maamur, 10-1 others.

3.05 IGNIS HOME APPLIANCES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,600: 3m) (17)

1 222- MARSH'S LAW 182 (C,F,G,S) O Brennan 8-11-10 M Brennan
2 01-5 PRINCE OF SALERNO 10 (S) N Gaselee 8-11-9 .. B Powell
3 1310 ADRIEN 15 (B,D,BF,F,S) Mrs S Bramall 7-11-6 Mr K Whelan (5)
4 2-1F SILVER STANDARD 10 (G,S) T Forster 5-11-4 ..... S Wynne
5 /P-6 CHELSEA NATIVE 15 (D,S,S) K Burke 8-11-2 ..... A Lamach (3)
6 -121 SAN GIORGIO 20 (D,F,S) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-1 ... T Jenks
7 325- BEE DEE BOY 318 (D,G) P Clarke 7-11-1 ..... M Clinton (7)
8 D-25 SINGLESOLE 30 (F,G,S) Mrs P Sly 10-11-0 ..... R Marley
9 63-3 MELLION PRIDE 16 P Hobbs 7-10-13 ..... B Clifford
10 156P KHAZARI 56 (D,F,G,S) R Brotherton 7-10-10 ... L Harvey
11 -212 MY KEY SILCA 11 (BF,F,G,S) C Nash 10-10-9 .. G Hogan (3)
12 P-31 PETTAUGH 12 (F) G Hubbard 7-10-8 ..... K Gaule (3)
13 2U-4 WRECKLESS MAN 11 (F,G,S) J Old 8-10-6 ..... T Grantham
14 5-42 ALTERNATION 17 (G) P Webber 6-10-3 ..... Mr P Scott (7)
15 P-00 TRY NEXT DOOR 22 (S) M Britton 8-10-2 ..... D Wilkinson
16 P-3U TITAN EMPRESS 11 (BF,S) S Mellor 6-10-0 ..... N Mann
17 F44- GRUNGE 256 (G) D Murray Smith 7-10-0 ..... D Gallagher

5-1 San Giorgio, 6-1 Prince Of Salerno, 8-1 Adrien, Pettaugh, 10-1 Mellion Pride, My Key Silca, 12-1 others.

3.35 BATHROOMS & KITCHENS THE MAGAZINE STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE
(£1,785: 2m) (18)

1 BAILEYS BRIDGE Mrs S Bramall 4-11-4 ..... J Burke
2 BURFIELD BOY G Charles-Jones 4-11-4 ..... W McFarland
3 0 CAULKIN 18 Miss H Knight 4-11-4 ..... S F Ryan (5)
4 FRYS NO FOOL J Old 5-11-4 ..... T Grantham
5 6 LITTLE NICKERS 12 J Edwards 5-11-4 ..... Mr M Daly (7)
6 MASTER PALLIETER Mrs J Pitman 4-11-4 Mr M McGrath (7)
7 MOON DEVIL Mark Campion 5-11-4 ..... L Dace
8 2 MYSTIC ISLE 17 N Gaselee 5-11-4 ..... F Cooper (7)
9 PYRRHIC VICTORY R Stronge 4-11-4 ..... R Stronge
10 REVERSE THRUST P Hedger 4-11-4 ..... M Clinton (7)
11 SHAUL O Brennan 5-11-4 ..... S O'Donnell (7)
12 5 SMART LORD 28 J Bosley 4-11-4 ..... M Bosley
13 SO HUMBLE P Wentworth 4-11-4 ..... Mr A Kinane
14 0 TORIAN 35 Mrs I McKie 4-11-4 ..... L Harvey
15 0- TURSAL 284 T Donnelly 6-11-4 ..... T Eley
16 4 CAROLE'S CRUSADER 17 Mrs J R-Barons 4-10-13 .. R Greene
17 DUTCH AUNTIE O Sherwood 4-10-13 ..... M Richards
18 3 RI RA 15 R Hollinshead 5-10-13 ..... Gary Lyons

7-2 Mystic Isle, 5-1 Master Palliefer, 7-1 Dutch Auntie, Frys No Fool, 8-1 others.

WETHERBY

THUNDERER

12.40 Chopwell Curtains. 1.10 Master Boston. 1.40 Sharkashka. 2.10 Cumbrian Challenge. 2.40 Unguided Missile. 3.15 Coulin Loch.

GOING: GOOD — SIS

12.40 MICKY HAMMOND OWNERS NOVICES HURDLE (£3,150: 2m 7f 110yd) (18 runners)

1 1/12 CAVANA 19 (BF,F,S) N Graham 5-11-1 ..... M Dwyer
2 ALCIAN BLUE 47F M Hammond 4-11-0 ..... Mr C Bonner (3)
3 CHERRY STONE L Lungo 6-11-0 ..... T Reed
4 -15R CHOPWELL CURTAINS 7 (F) M H Easterby 5-11-0 ..... L Wyer
5 3 DODGEM 14 M Wilkinson 7-11-0 ..... P Crowley (7)
6 5/00 HAUGHTON LAD 12 J Parkes 8-11-0 ..... R McCarthy (7)
7 NAPOLEON'S GOLD A Foster 5-11-0 ..... R Massey (5)
8 005- PACIFIC RAMBLER 242 G Moore 5-11-0 ..... N Bentley
9 6-0 PALACE OF GOLD 22 L Lungo 5-11-0 ..... F Perratt (3)
10 66-3 PEBBLE BEACH 7 G Moore 5-11-0 ..... J Callaghan
11 06- RAMBLING OATS 203 O Sherwood 6-11-0 ..... J A McCarthy
12 60-5 THE GALLOPIN'MAJOR 9 Mrs M Reveley 5-11-0 .. G Cahill (7)
13 34-2 TILTY 29 (V,BF) A Streeter 5-11-0 ..... T Eley
14 0 YOUNG STEVEN 5 W Kemp 4-11-0 ..... S McDougall
15 33 ALL ON 22 J Hetherton 4-10-9 ..... O Peters
16 202/ EVE'S TREASURE 620 S Campion 5-10-9 ..... A S Smith
17 6P-4 MERRY NOELLE 17 E Owen 5-10-9 ..... Gary Lyons
18 WHISKEY DITCH Mrs M Reveley 4-10-9 ..... G McCormack (7)

9-4 Chopwell Curtains, 6-1 All On, Cavana, 7-1 The Gallopin'major, 8-1 Rambling Oats, 10-1 Dodgem, Pebble Beach, 12-1 others.

1.10 EMMERDALE HANDICAP CHASE
(£4,419: 2m 4f 110yd) (6)

1 F11F WIND FORCE 14 (C,D,BF,F,G) G Richards 10-12-0 ... J Railton
2 UF-4 BEACHY HEAD 7 (CD,G,S) J J O'Neill 7-12-0 ..... M Dwyer
3 221- VALIANT WARRIOR 260 (D,G) M Hammond 7-11-3 C Bonner (3)
4 11-3 DARK OAK 14 (D,G,S) J Curtis 9-10-13 ..... L O'Hara
5 2-42 MASTER BOSTON 8 (G,S) R Woodhouse 7-10-13 ..... L Wyer
6 13-2 STRONG SOUND 7 (CD,F,G,S) P Cheesbrough 8-10-8 ... R Guest

11-4 Wind Force, 3-1 Master Boston, 4-1 Beachy Head, 9-2 Dark Oak, 5-1 others.

1.40 ATS HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,574: 2m) (10)

1 F25- NOVAN 191F (D,F,G) D Nicholls 5-11-11 ..... S Mason
2 113- GLANMERIN 226 (D,G,S) K Morgan 4-11-8 ..... A S Smith
3 12-6 LITTLE BROMLEY 7 (CD,F,G,S) A Eubank 8-11-3 A Mooney (7)
4 13-F TULU 19 (D,S) Mrs J Ramsden 4-11-3 ..... D Thomas (7)
5 51F/ BANK VIEW 757 (D,G,S) N Tinkler 10-10-13 ..... M Dwyer
6 36-2 ZAMHAREER 23 (D,G) W Storey 4-10-12 ..... J Supple (3)
7 4-20 KATTAK 36 (D,G) J Carr 4-10-5 ..... F Leahy (3)
8 4-40 SAINT CIEL 28 (D,G,S) F Jordan 7-10-3 ..... J Lodder
9 11/3 SHARKASHKA 9 (F,G) M H Easterby 5-10-2 ..... L Wyer
10 00P- GLENLIGIE 238F (D,F) G Moore 4-10-0 ..... N Bentley

9-4 Sharkashka, 7-2 Tulu, 5-1 Glanmerin, 8-1 Little Bromley, Novan, Saint Ciel, 12-1 Zamhareer, 16-1 others.

2.10 DICK WARDEN NOVICES CHASE
(£4,094: 2m 4f 110yd) (8)

1 -131 CUMBRIAN CHALLENGE 14 (C,G,S) M H Easterby 6-11-12 L Wyer
2 1U12 SPANISH LIGHT 15 (D,BF,F) G Richards 5-11-12 .. B Harding
3 53-1 REAL GLEE 22 (D,F) O Sherwood 6-11-6 ..... J A McCarthy
4 FP0/ CRACKLING FROST 583 Mrs D Haine 7-11-2 ..... A S Smith
5 P11- LORD OF THE WEST 251P (G,S) J J O'Neill 6-11-2 ... M Dwyer
6 F 42-6 NATIVE MONEY 10 M Hammond 6-11-2 ..... B Storey
7 3P6R RIVER BEE 12 (B) W Reed 5-11-2 ..... T Reed
8 F4-F TUDOR FELLOW 10 J Wade 6-11-2 ..... K Jones

2-1 Cumbrian Challenge, 11-4 Spanish Light, 3-1 Real Glee, 7-2 Lord Of The West, 10-1 Crackling Frost, 25-1 Native Money, 33-1 others.

2.40 WHARFE HANDICAP CHASE
(£6,938: 3m 110yd) (7)

1 F1-1 UNGUIDED MISSILE 22 (CD,F,G) G Richards 7-11-13 J Railton
2 243- LO STREGONE 224 (CD,F,G,S) T Tate 9-11-7 ... Mr S Swiers
3 -131 TOOSOOO TO BE TRUE 16 (C,D,F,G,S) M H Easterby 7-10-13 L Wyer
4 2PP- CLYDE RANGER 273 (CD,S) M Hammond 8-10-13 C Bonner (3)
5 1-25 SILVER STICK 11 (B,CD,G,S) M W Easterby 8-10-11 .. A S Smith
6 1F-5 STRONG DEEL 21 (D,F,S,S) W Reed 7-10-9 ..... T Reed
7 114- FRONT LINE 220 (S) J J O'Neill 8-10-8 ..... M Dwyer

9-4 Unguided Missile, 11-4 Toogoood To Be True, 5-1 Front Line, 6-1 Lo Stregone, 8-1 Clyde Ranger, 12-1 Strong Deel, 14-1 Silver Stick.

3.15 BEE'S BIRTHDAY NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,930: 2m 4f 110yd) (14)

1 1414 GEORGE ASHFORD 21 (D,F) K Morgan 5-11-10 R Massey (5)
2 3-01 CORSTON RAMBO 10 (D,S) L Lungo 8-11-6 ..... T Reed
3 1P SIMAFAR 28 (F) N Graham 4-11-3 ..... L Wyer
4 4P-0 VALLEY GARDEN 18 (G,S) J J O'Neill 5-11-2 .. A Roche (3)
5 022/ ALMAMZAR 577F N Tinkler 5-11-1 ..... E Husband (3)
6 -112 HIGHLAND PARK 14 (CD,F) R Craggs 9-10-11 ... B Storey
7 4-64 MERRYHILL GOLD 18 J Curtis 4-10-10 ..... D J Kavanagh (5)
8 5-51 COULIN LOCH 28 (F) M Wilkinson 8-10-6 ..... R Supple
9 0/0- VAINLY SUBTHYME 180F J Carr 5-10-2 ..... N Smith
10 03-P COMBELUNO 9 (B) M Hammond 5-10-1 ..... J Callaghan
11 P613 COPPERHURST 4 (D,G) W Kemp 4-10-0 ..... S McDougall
12 0-25 OWENS QUEST 19 T Easterby 5-10-0 ..... R Rourke (7)
13 00/0 THE TARTAN DYER 16 W Belfield 5-10-0 ..... A S Smith
14 -030 ESCAPE TALK 14 (B) J Dooler 8-10-0 ..... G Lee (3)

3-1 Coulin Loch, 7-2 Corston Rambo, 6-1 George Ashford, 8-1 Highland Park, 10-1 Owens Quest, Copperhurst, 12-1 others.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

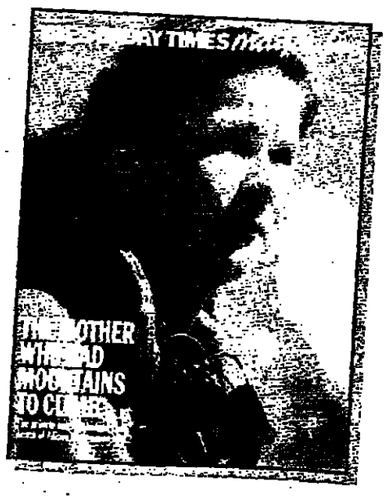


WHY LARA WON'T PLAY BALL

He is the finest batsman of his generation, yet he has refused to play for the West Indies. Is Brian Lara a spoilt brat or a proud individual making a stand against incompetent officialdom? Read the inside story of why he has taken on the cricket establishment in Sport tomorrow

A MOTHER'S PRIVATE ANGUISH

The single-minded determination of Alison Hargreaves took her to the top of Everest and the summit of K2, where it led to her death. Her achievements concealed mounting anguish over her marriage and her relationship with her children. Read the story of her brave and lonely struggle in The Magazine



THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

COURSE SPECIALISTS

Wolverhampton

TRAINERS: J Gosden, 5 winners from 11 runners, 45.5%; R Charlton, 3 from 9, 33.3%; W Jarvis, 4 from 13, 30.8%; M Johnston, 29 from 105, 27.6%; J Glover, 8 from 35, 22.9%; P Haslam, 21 from 99, 21.2%; P Felgate, 4 from 20, 20.0%; G Lewis, 8 from 42, 19.0%.

JOCKEYS: L Dettori, 29 winners from 133 rides, 21.8%; Amanda Sanders, 8 from 38, 21.1%; T Ives, 20 from 113, 17.7%; R Hughes, 3 from 18, 16.7%; G Carter, 18 from 112, 16.1%; R Cochrane, 12 from 78, 15.4%; D Harrison, 14 from 105, 13.3%; S Whitworth, 8 from 63, 12.7%.

Towcester

TRAINERS: D Nicholson, 13 winners from 39 runners, 33.3%; O Brennan, 25 from 95, 26.3%; C Brooks, 7 from 27, 25.9%; Mrs J Pitman, 11 from 44, 25.0%; Mrs I McKie, 13 from 53, 24.5%; P Dalton, 6 from 26, 23.1%; J Edwards, 5 from 24, 20.8%.

JOCKEYS: J Burke, 3 winners from 9 rides, 33.3%; M Brennan, 25 from 89, 28.1%; T Jenks, 3 from 15, 20.0%; M Richards, 5 from 30, 16.7%; A Tory, 3 from 20, 15.0%; D Gallagher, 6 from 43, 14.0%; L Harvey, 13 from 98, 13.3%; Peter Hobbs, 4 from 30, 13.3%.

Wetherby

TRAINERS: Mrs M Reveley, 44 winners from 148 runners, 29.7%; L Lungo, 3 from 12, 25.0%; G Richards, 22 from 109, 20.2%; M H Easterby, 25 from 130, 19.2%; M W Easterby, 15 from 96, 15.6%; P Cheesbrough, 10 from 73, 13.7%; M Hammond, 17 from 127, 13.4%; N Tinkler, 8 from 65, 12.3%; G Moore, 7 from 57, 12.3%.

JOCKEYS: L Wyer, 32 winners from 145 rides, 22.1%; L O'Hara, 4 from 26, 15.4%. Only qualifiers.

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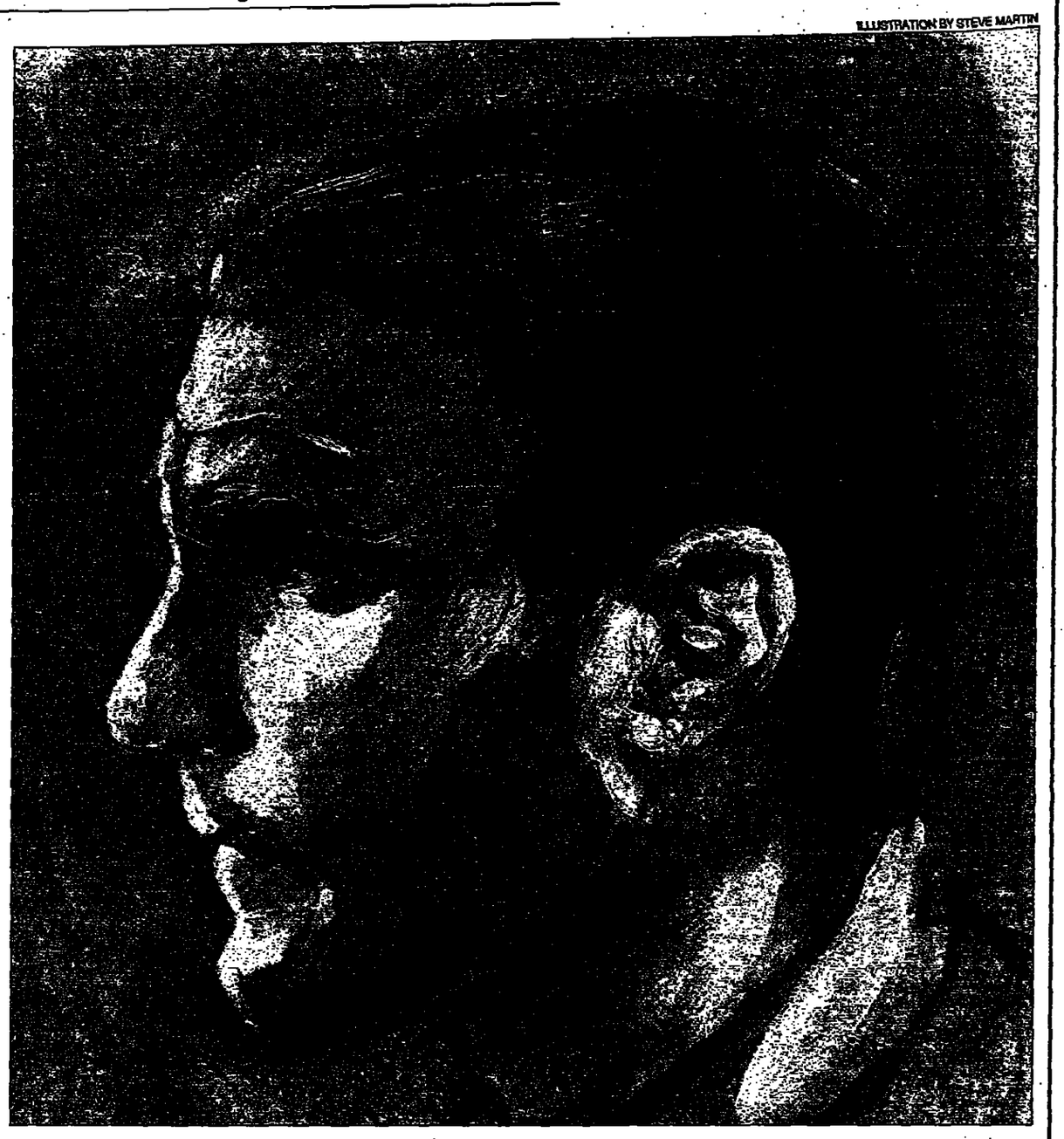
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Saturday portrait: Vinnie Jones, by Andrew Longmore

Notorious hard man battling to leave his mark on game of skill

ILLUSTRATION BY STEVE MARTIN



His favourite sportsman is Mike Tyson, favourite film *Rocky*, favourite actor Clint Eastwood, favourite comedian Jim Davidson, favourite city Leeds. No one can accuse Vincent Peter Jones of not fitting the bill. A man's man from his likes and dislikes down to the tattoo announcing "Leeds — Champions Div 2" on his left shin, "FA Cup winners" on his right, and the 16 guns which have pride of place in a purpose-built cabinet at Jones's new mansion in Hertfordshire.

Tomorrow afternoon, the last surviving member of the original Crazy Gang at Wimbledon does battle — for Jones, that is not just a figure of speech — with the FA Carling Premiership leaders Newcastle United, knowing that unless his side resurrect the lost art of winning against the odds the next tattoo might mark a rather less glorious moment in Jones's colourful (predominantly red) career.

After picking up a mere two points from the last nine league matches and sinking from third place to sixteenth, Wimbledon are in danger not merely of relegation, but worse, much worse for a club weaned on deeds of machismo — of being regarded as a soft touch by opponents who once looked forward to the meeting with all the relish of foot soldiers entering the Somme.

A 6-1 thrashing at St James' Park six weeks ago suggested that parting a baby from a bag of jelly beans would have been more taxing than taking three points from Wimbledon and most indicators suggest the same degree of difficulty for Newcastle this time around.

No one will be hurt more deeply by Wimbledon's decline nor work harder to reverse it than Vinnie Jones. But the lingering possibility is that, a month before his 31st birthday, Jones is as much the cause of the problem as the solution, a shaven-headed icon of a bygone era, the umbilical cord which ties Wimbledon to a notorious and, in its coarse way, glorious past but which is now hindering the club's move towards adulthood. Intimidation, once at the heart of the Wimbledon Way, is no longer a factor.

The only vestige of the fear which that terrible gap-toothed grin used to inspire in opposing midfielders now lies deep within his own club, where the captain's word is still law and anyone stepping out of line is liable to summary justice. A recent dressing-room spat between Jones and Marcus Gayle made the Batty-Le Saux rumpus look like a pillow fight in a public school dorm. More free-for-all than one-for-all, which is a worrying trend for a club famed for its musketeer spirit.

The difficulty is that objective judgment of Jones is buried by an avalanche of prejudice, half-truths and image, all of which Jones has encouraged. Those who know Jones well defend him to the hilt, following the "diamond geezer"

> 'A shaven-headed icon of a bygone era, the umbilical cord that ties the club to its past'

line of character reference and answering a hypothetical question once asked by Jones himself. "At the end of the day, who would you rather have in the trenches with you, Gary Lineker or Vinnie Jones?"

Only Wimbledon have ever mistaken football for trench warfare, but the sentiments, say the defendants, are spot on. Jones is an inspirational leader, badly misunderstood by the public, badly handled by biased referees and unfit for Premiership consumption. "He's a better player than people give him credit for," his present manager, Joe Kinnear, says. But as the Wimbledon captain was voted the worst player of all time by a football magazine poll recently, that is not quite the advertisement it might be. Nor is the indictment quite true.

A 30-yard volley, sweetly struck just over the bar, in the recent draw with Middlesbrough is not conclusive proof of genius, but raised an eyebrow or two from those who had come to watch such tricks from Juninho.

The judgment of Howard Wilkinson is probably about right. He bought Jones for £650,000 to take Leeds United out of the second division and, when the job had been done, discarded him within a month of the new season in the top league.

Don Howe, who coached Jones and Wimbledon to their unlikely FA Cup triumph in 1988, describes a man far removed from the public's imagination. "Vinnie is a very kind man," he said. "I remember once when he won a television set as man of the match he took it straight down to the local children's hospital. He'll spend a lot of time around Christmas visiting the kids and they love him. If someone needs an auctioneer for a charity function, someone to get people going, it will always be Vinnie." But how come it is always Vinnie when the red cards are handed out?

"He's Jekyll and Hyde. It's not that he loses his temper but that he wants to win so badly he goes for tackles he shouldn't. Often, on the side, I'd be saying to myself, 'Don't go for it, you can't get it', and he'll go diving in. The referees know it's him and so do the crowds. It's not the refs' fault, Vinnie has earned that reputation. It's exuberance."

Jones's uncultured method of tackling, six foot and 12 stone launched from five yards off, still bears the mark of his old days as a hod carrier and semi-professional before Dave Bassett brought him to Wimbledon for £10,000. He has not, it seems, learnt much about subtlety since. "The brain of a mosquito", as the Wimbledon chairman, Sam Hammam, so fondly put it.

A record over the past year of three red cards, one in his second international for Wales, and one journalist's nose bitten suggests that Jones has learnt neither contrition nor common sense in his old age. However unjust some of his dismissals, a career total of 11 and counting defies pure coincidence as well as Jones's claim that he is a changed man. It is one thing to talk, as Jones does now, about wanting to be left alone with his wife, Tanya, and his baby son, Aaron; about the magical transformation of the wild old Jones Boy into simple Squire Jones with his gun dogs, brogues and animal farm. Playing the grown-up footballer has proved more difficult. Notoriety cannot be dismissed as easily as he can.

Besides, stunts like *Soccer's Hard Men*, the video in which he explains the technique of running your studs down an opponent's Achilles tendon and picking him up by the hair under his armpits, allied to such tasty tabloid fodder as "if their top geezer gets sorted out early doors, you win" (a reference to his physical subjection of Steve McMahon in the 1988 Cup final) and pictures of him grabbing Paul Gascoigne's shorts during a cup tie against Newcastle, have turned an ordinary footballer with a handsome long throw into a cult figure, so acceptably establishment these days that he was even asked to lecture to the boys at Eton College.

Whether by chance or design, Jones has made a good living out of playing the common man, so deserves limited sympathy when the image overtakes reality. The referees might actually be doing Vinnie a favour by perpetuating the myth.

What then is the verdict on Jones? A better player than people think, a worse one than Wimbledon think, a good companion for the trenches, an ill-tempered thug, a loveable rogue, an honest professional, a diamond geezer? Jones is probably all of those and more.

He certainly brings to mind the immortal words of James Cagney, "for sure, he ain't no Angel Gabriel". But Newcastle might be interested to know that Vinnie is also an incurable romantic — his favourite footballer is Glenn Hoddle.

THE TIMES MATCH-BY-MATCH GUIDE TO THE PREMIERSHIP THIS WEEKEND

ASTON VILLA v ARSENAL

Arsenal's 2-1 Coca-Cola Cup victory over Sheffield Wednesday in midweek was a triumph for Bruce Rioch's adventurous 4-3-3 formation, in which Bergkamp, Wright, Hartson in attack, and Merson and Platt in midfield, fused as if one. Even Jensen, not noted for his extra-terrestrial artistry, provided the perfect counter-balance when his team-mates boldly went where few had gone before. A pity, then, that Bergkamp may miss his first match for Arsenal, after nine goals in 19 matches, with a calf muscle strain. If so, lucky Villa.

LAST SEASON: Aston Villa 0 Arsenal 4.
10-YEAR RECORD: 1-4, 0-4, —, 0-3, 2-1, 0-0, 3-1, 1-0, 1-2, 0-4.

How they line up

ASTON VILLA (from): M Bosnich, G Charles, U Ehiogu, P McGrath, G Southgate, A Wright, M Draper, A Townsend, D Yorke, S Milosevic, T Johnson, S Staunton, R Scimeca, N Spink, F Carr.
ARSENAL (from): D Seaman, L Dixon, S Bould, A Adams, N Winterburn, D Platt, P Merson, J Jensen, I Wright, D Bergkamp, J Hartson, M Keown, D Hillier, G Helder, S Morrow, V Bartram.

BLACKBURN v WEST HAM

Alan Shearer's mystifying lack of goals for England — none in eight matches — may be part-explained by the words of wisdom he imparted to *Radio 5 Live* after a recent international. "We haven't been scoring goals but football's not just about scoring goals," he said. "It's about winning." Of course; it was so obvious. Blackburn have won only once, albeit 7-0, in four Premiership outings, while West Ham have lost only once in nine. Martin (37 years) is out, because of injury, but Dicks (55 bookings) is back, from suspension.

LAST SEASON: Blackburn Rovers 4 West Ham United 2.
10-YEAR RECORD: —, —, —, —, 5-4, 3-1, —, —, 0-2, 4-2.

How they line up

BLACKBURN (from): T Flowers, H Berg, G Le Saux, C Hendry, J Kenna, T Sherwood, W McKinlay, D Batty, S Ripley, A Shearer, M Newell, C Sutton, L Bohinen, P Warhurst, G Fenton, N Gudmundsson.
WEST HAM (from): L Miklosko, S Potts, J Dicks, T Breacker, M Reiper, J Harkes, R Slater, I Bishop, D Williamson, A Cottee, M Hughes, I Dowie, D Hutchison, M Boogers, S Lazaridies, L Sealey.

BOLTON v NOTTINGHAM FOREST

Quite why Bolton, propping up the Premiership, should express an interest in paying £800,000 for Scott Sellars — a sinewy, often invisible, little winger — will need a good deal of explaining from Roy McFarland, the manager at Burnden Park. In their present predicament, a grafting, all-action, no-nonsense midfield player might have been more appropriate. *Comprendes?* Forest are without Roy and Lee up front but Campbell and Silenzi are fit to play — if they can displace the boys McGregor and Howe.

LAST SEASON: No fixture.
10-YEAR RECORD: —, —, —, —, —, —, —, —, 4-3, —.

How they line up

BOLTON (from): K Branagan, S Green, J Phillips, S Curcic, G Bergsson, C Fairclough, G Taggart, A Todd, J McGinlay, A Thompson, S McAnespie, F de Freitas, A Davison, R Sneekes, W Burnett.
NOTTM FOREST (from): M Crossley, D Lyttle, S Pearce, C Cooper, A Haaland, S Stone, C Bart-Williams, S Stemmill, P McGregor, S Howe, I Woan, K Campbell, A Silenzi, D Phillips, R Irving.

LEEDS v MANCHESTER CITY

Alan Ball, manager of the month? Winger of the month, perhaps, but surely not ahead of Keegan, Francis or Rioch in the November stakes. Strange . . . but true. City's record of three 1-0 home wins and a draw, and their mind-warping elevation to seventeenth place in the Premiership, swayed the judges in Bell's favour. December might not start off so promisingly, with City having won only once at Elland Road in the last ten years. If history is repeated today, Bell can have a good old moan again. What bliss.

LAST SEASON: Leeds 2 Manchester City 0.
10-YEAR RECORD: —, —, 2-0, 1-1, —, 1-2, 3-0, 1-0, 3-2, 2-0.

How they line up

LEEDS (from): J Lukic, G Kelly, D Wetherall, R Jobson, C Palmer, A Dorigo, B Deane, M Tinkler, G McAllister, G Speed, T Brolin, A Yeboah, J Pemberton, N Worthington, N Whelan, R Wallace, A Couzens, M Ford.
MAN CITY (from): E Immel, R Edghill, S Lomas, K Curle, G Kinkladze, N Quinn, G Fitzroit, I Brightwell, K Symons, N Summerbee, U Rösler, G Creaney, A Kernaghan, A Coton.

LIVERPOOL v SOUTHAMPTON

Six matches without a win, including five defeats, and only two goals scored. What is going on at Anfield? "We must get the ball forward quicker," a senior player said. "We must get back to passing the ball," another said. To keep his dissidents happy, Roy Evans will play 3-5-2 in the first half and 4-4-2 in the second. Not that it will matter, judging by Southampton's abysmal Coca-Cola exit at Reading on Tuesday. Venison will have a fitness test, on his bad back, as will Le Tissier, on his broken heart.

LAST SEASON: Liverpool 3 Southampton 1.
10-YEAR RECORD: 1-0, 1-0, 1-1, 2-0, 3-2, 3-2, 0-0, 1-1, 4-2, 3-1.

How they line up

LIVERPOOL (from): D James, R Jones, S Harkness, P Babb, M Wright, J Scales, J Barnes, S McManaman, M Kennedy, R Fowler, S Collymore, N Clough, A Warner, D Matteo.
SOUTHAMPTON (from): D Beasant, J Dodd, F Benali, R Hall, K Monkou, A Neilson, B Venison, J Magilton, M Le Tissier, N Maddison, D Shipperley, G Watson, C Warren, T Widdrington, F Bennett.

MANCHESTER UNITED v CHELSEA

Schmeichel has given United the elbow for a couple of weeks, while he recovers from surgery, and Alex Ferguson is also without Keane and Butt, who are suspended. Respective form figures suggest a home banker but Chelsea have a bold record at Old Trafford — only two defeats in their last 20 visits. Hughes returns to his former home and, most important of all, there should be plenty of spontaneous photo opportunities for Matthew Harding, Chelsea's favourite director, and his back-slapping, Guinness-supping entourage.

LAST SEASON: Manchester Utd 0 Chelsea 0.
10-YEAR RECORD: 1-2, 0-1, 3-1, —, 0-0, 2-3, 1-1, 3-0, 0-1, 0-0.

How they line up

MAN UTD (from): K Pilkington, G Neville, S Bruce, G Pallister, D Irwin, D Beckham, B McClair, R Giggs, E Cantona, P Scholes, A Cole, P Neville, L Sharpe, D May.
CHELSEA (from): D Kharine, M Duberry, D Lee, F Sinclair, A Myers, G Hall, E Newton, D Petrescu, C Burley, N Spackman, D Wise, M Hughes, J Spencer, P Furlong, A Barness, R Guilfi, K Hitchcock.

QPR v MIDDLESBROUGH

Many visiting supporters were taken aback by the appearance of Rangers' 66th-minute substitute in their 1-0 Coca-Cola Cup defeat at Villa Park on Wednesday. Could he be, they thought, the very same £1.5 million striker the club had bought two months previously and yet failed to unleash on an unsuspecting public? Indeed, he was. Mark Hateley was back, albeit for only 24 minutes, after recovering from ankle surgery. Such is Rangers' plight, he will have to make up for lost time. Immediately.

LAST SEASON: No fixture.
10-YEAR RECORD: —, —, —, 0-0, —, —, —, 3-3, —, —.

How they line up

QPR (from): J Sommer, D Bardsley, A McDonald, K Ready, S Yates, D Maddix, R Brevett, M Brazier, S Barker, I Holloway, A Impey, S Osborn, R Wilkins, T Sinclair, D Dichio, K Gallen, M Hateley, A Roberts, T Challis.
MIDDLESBROUGH (from): G Welsh, N Cox, S Vickers, N Pearson, C Liddle, C Morris, N Barmby, J Pollock, C Hignett, P Stamp, J A Fjortoft, Juninho, C Blackmore.

TOTTENHAM v EVERTON

Duncan Ferguson has accorded a VIP return to the real world last week. A chauffeur-driven exit from Barlinnie prison and a hero's welcome at Goodison Park. Yuk, yuk and thrice yuk: Joe Royle, the Everton manager, then compounded such a grave error of judgment by blaming the Fourth Estate for Ferguson's self-lodgement. "Don't you think you've done enough to the lad already?" fumed Joe Millwall. Thankfully, suspension will keep Duncan Disorderly from gracing White Hart Lane with his presence this afternoon.

LAST SEASON: Tottenham 2 Everton 1.
10-YEAR RECORD: 0-1, 2-0, 2-1, 2-1, 2-1, 3-3, 3-3, 2-1, 3-2, 2-1.

How they line up

TOTTENHAM (from): I Walker, D Austin, D Howells, G Mabbutt, E Sheringham, C Armstrong, R Boseratzki, C Calderwood, J Dozzell, S Campbell, R Fox, J Edinburgh, G McMahon, C Day.
EVERTON (from): N Southall, M Jackson, D Watson, R Unsworth, C Short, A Hinchcliffe, A Limpar, J Ebbrell, J Parkinson, A Kanchelskis, G Stuart, D Amokachi, B Horne, J Keeton, A Grant.

TOMORROW

WIMBLEDON v NEWCASTLE

Kevin Keegan is a touch wary of talking on wounded Wimbledon. "We've never won there and never deserved to," he said. Adding fuel to his fears, Joe Kinnear has an almost injury-free and suspension-free squad to select from for the first time in ages. If Kinnear's fighting talk is to be believed, Wimbledon's ten-match sequence without a Premiership win is about to come to an end. Ferdinand is fit, though, after his genital conflict with Mark Wright in midweek, and leads the teeters into the Valley of Sin.

LAST SEASON: Wimbledon 3 Newcastle 2.
10-YEAR RECORD: —, 3-1, 0-0, 4-0, —, —, —, 4-2, 3-2.

How they line up

WIMBLEDON (from): P Heald, K Cunningham, C Perry, A Pearce, A Thorn, A Reeves, A Kimble, G Ekoku, V Jones, G Leonhardsen, R Earle, J Goodman, E Ekoku, D Holdsworth, J Ebell, M Gayle, A Clarke.
NEWCASTLE (from): S Hislop, W Barton, J Beresford, D Peacock, S Howey, K Gillespie, R Lee, L Clark, D Garcia, P Beardsley, L Ferdinand, S Watson, R Elliott, P Smicek.

HOW THEY STAND

	P	Pts	Goal diff	Recent form
1 Newcastle	15	38	+22	DWWDW
2 Manchester Utd	15	33	+18	WLWWD
3 Arsenal	15	28	+11	LWLWD
4 Aston Villa	15	27	+8	WWDWL
5 Tottenham	15	26	+5	DWWWD
6 Middlesbrough	15	26	+5	LDDLW
7 Notts Forest	14	25	+3	WDWLD
8 Liverpool	15	24	+13	WLLDL
9 Leeds	14	24	+4	DWDWL
10 West Ham	15	20	-1	WLWDW
11 Chelsea	15	20	-3	LDLWD
12 Everton	15	19	0	LWWWD
13 Blackburn	15	18	+6	WLLWD
14 Southampton	15	15	-10	WWLLW
15 Sheffield Wed	15	14	-6	LDDLD
16 Wimbledon	15	12	-14	LLDLD
17 Manchester City	15	12	-16	LWDWW
18 QPR	15	11	-12	DLDLL
19 Coventry	15	9	-18	LLDLD
20 Bolton	15	9	-16	WLWLL

MONDAY

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY v COVENTRY

Woe upon woe piles upon Big Ron and Wee Gordon. One Premiership win in 15 attempts, three players sent off in their last two matches and a midweek Coca-Cola Cup exit against a hardly ravenous Wolves. It is not as if the dynamic duo have not exercised their options, with 27 players already used this season. David Pleat also has his headaches — Wednesday have tailed down to join the league — but at least they look like doing something. Coventry are staring at a bleak Christmas and an even more turbulent New year.

LAST SEASON: Sheffield Wednesday 5 Coventry 1.
10-YEAR RECORD: 2-2, 2-2, 0-3, 1-2, 0-0, —, 1-3, 1-0, 0-0, 5-1.

How they line up

SHEFF WED (from): K Pressman, I Nolan, L Briscoe, S Nicol, P Atherton, D Walker, C Waddle, G Hyde, B Hirst, G Whittingham, R Simon, M Degryse, M Bright, M Williams, J Watts, C Woods.
COVENTRY (from): S Ogrizovic, R Shaw, D Rennie, P Williams, M Hall, G Strachen, K Richardson, lestes, J Salako, P Ndlovu, D Dublin, A Pickering, P Cook, J Filan, P Telfer.

WHEN TO WATCH ON TELEVISION

Today

10.45pm BBC 1 Match of the Day (highlights)

Tomorrow

12 noon, Sky Sports 2 Goals on Sunday

3.30 Sky Sports 2 Ford Escort Super Sunday: Wimbledon v Newcastle (live)

Monday

7.00pm Sky Sports Ford Escort Monday Night Football: Sheffield Wednesday v Coventry (live)

Compiled by Russell Kempton, Mike Dickinson

هكذا من الأصل

Rising sun's shadow dims beautiful game



ROB HUGHES
Weekend View

Little more than a week from now, all the nations that have aspirations to succeed in world football will gather in Paris to see who they draw in the qualifying rounds for the 1998 World Cup in France. With respect, nothing they can experience will have the same dimension, the intensity, the power or the financial scale of the struggle to host the following World Cup, which is being contested right now between Japan and South Korea.

Here, in Hiroshima, Japan has built one of 15 futuristic football stadiums on the promise from João Havelange, president of Fifa, the world governing body, that it will get the 2002 World Cup. South Korea, the rival in every sense of the word to Japan in South East Asia, has until June 1 to ridicule that promise from a Fifa president who had no democratic right to make it.

But what is apparent, wherever one travels in Japan, is the will, the deep desire for this country to stage the biggest World Cup, and thus the biggest televised event, on earth (for football dwarfs even the Olympic Games).

"Perhaps like so many advanced countries we are somehow without national purpose or aims," Kiichi Miyazawa, a former Prime Minister, now leader of the all-parliamentary committee heading Japan's 2002 bid, said. "We really are sort of aimless, we have a duty to try to give something as a catalyst to our young, and I can think of nothing more than football, the game to which they have already taken, to rally around."

Standing in Hiroshima, in the Big Arch Stadium that is part of an architecturally splendid sports complex in the hills just outside the once-razed city, one can share that sense of a country of wealth still trying to find a diversion from what its past holds. And yet the billions that have turned the game into business, the entrepreneurship and the television wrangling that caused five separate consortiums to bid more than $1 billion (about £660 million) each for the television rights for 2002, are irresistible examples of the attraction of football.

Miyazawa, flanked by genuine football people, has come to realise that Japan's youth are unlike their forebears. Seishiro Etoh, now Japan's Foreign Minister but also a builder towards the football dream, explained that more than half the 820,000 players in Japan are very young. "They are attracted by team play, speed, perpetual movement."

The children, the youth, have drawn away from the reverence of their elders. Football is, to them, a game their parents never knew, so they covet it, pursue it, dream of it. In the stadiums being built by municipalities — in Yokohama at a cost of $600 million, for example — there is now a commitment, sunk in concrete, that cannot be reversed even if the World Cup bid is lost to Korea. The building, like so much of Japan's infrastructure, is carried out with a discipline as if the workers are a colony of bees. "We cannot take chances, there must be safety," observed one construction expert. "We have building laws ... this is not like Korea." That tart comment, that barb at the competitor just across the sea, was one of the few heard in a week travelling Japan.

Remarkably, despite the obvious and sometimes rancorous reasons why Japan and Korea are competitors but not partners, even the leaders of Asian football try to suggest that a joint bid between the two, for a World Cup now enlarged to 64 games, would be a sensible compromise.

Even within Japan there are leading industrialists and politicians who say that the $5 billion Japanese building proposals, and the $1.3 billion Korean building programme, are economic obscenities. Sneo Watanabe, president of the corporation that owns Yomiuri Giants baseball team and Verdy Kawasaki football team, recently stated that it was madness for the two nations to compete, that it would be better to promote international peace and friendship, rather than the inevitable confrontation.

The politicians in power say it is too late for that, and that Fifa has never asked for it. A week in their company, and in this vibrant country, leaves one in awe of of the near-fanatical cohesion of the planning, but fearful that the game has indeed lost its soul and enjoyment. It is no longer a game, nor even a business. At this rarefied level it is a compulsion that takes man ever closer to the edge where sport undermines harmony and a belief in the future.

Rocks ready to roll again for faithful Pearce

Walter Gammie meets the Jack of all trades leading Bognor's challenge at Peterborough

For once, Jack Pearce would not stop to talk. Having returned in the early hours from watching Peterborough United, his team's opponent in the FA Cup second round today, the Bognor Regis Town chairman, manager and safety officer, was up bright and early to collect messages at the club's office, but had to race off to an auction.

"It's a local horticultural college that's closing down," Pearce said. "We might be able to find some gang mowers for the club."

It was ever thus. For 20 years, Pearce, 46, has steered the fortunes of the south coast club since floating the Rocks, so-called after the landmark visible off the beach at low tide, off the reef of bottom place in the Southern League. His energy and enthusiasm has held the ship together.



In his first five years at Nyewood Lane, by his own admission, much of that energy was misplaced. Pearce, a hard-tackling full back, had shared two giddy seasons in which Bognor swept through the Sussex County League into the Southern League. He was let down by his disciplinary record.

"They sacked me," Pearce said. "I was the original bad boy... I wouldn't get out of September the way things are done today. They even made me captain to try to cure the problem. I was sent off in the second game and the Sussex FA suspended me for 112 days. It was then I realised that I couldn't beat the system."

Turning down other offers, Pearce hung around and with Bognor rock bottom, was given seven matches of the 1975-76 season to save them from re-election. "We drew five and won two," he said. The 1980s proved altogether more rewarding. Pearce oversaw a transfer to the Isthmian League in 1981 and then built a team that left its mark with five successive appearances in the FA Cup first round, bringing victories over Swansea City and Exeter City.

Along the way Pearce collected the role of chairman. "Nobody else wanted to do the job," he said. The two roles wore the edge off his appetite and he handed over the manager's job for two seasons in 1992 to Mick Pullen, 932 appearances and, at 37, still going strong alongside his twin, Paul, 858 appearances.

At the start of last season, refreshed, Pearce took up the reins again with a strong sense of optimism. "We had at last found somebody who wanted to put money into the club," he said. "As it turned out, our form was terrible. We couldn't score any goals." The benefactor, whom Pearce had earmarked as a possible chairman, couldn't maintain his commitment and high hopes went out with the tide.

"It's funny, but this season with much less money, everything has been brilliant," Pearce said. "We have a team that wants to play together."

He also persuaded the Pullens to play on. "I told them I needed them," he said. "The amazing thing is they have never had contracts. They've always said pay us what you can."

Pearce's cheery touch is infectious. Where else can you get the bread pudding served in Maggie's tea bar? The trip to Peterborough, he feels, is a well deserved day out for a dedicated band of helpers.

Had Pearce ever thought to deliver the rude farewell of good riddance attributed to King George V. "Yes. Sometimes," he said. "Then I think of those people who put in voluntary work, the unpaid hours. For me it's easy. I get paid to do something I love."

ANDY HASSAN



Pearce at Bognor's Nyewood Lane ground where he is the club's manager, chairman and safety officer

Hoddle not pursuing Holdsworth

GLENN HODDLE, the Chelsea manager, has ended speculation that he is trying to sign Dean Holdsworth, the Wimbledon striker. Although Chelsea's lack of goalscoring in the FA Carling Premiership is becoming acute, Hoddle said yesterday that he had not spoken to Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager, and that Holdsworth did not form any part of his plans.

"I've never picked up the phone and spoken to Joe about Dean," he said. "I'm not looking to sign any players at the moment. We have a lot of professionals here and we are going to weather this storm together."

Chelsea, again ravaged by injury problems, play Manchester United at Old Trafford this afternoon. Ruud Gullit and John Spencer are still absent, while Erland Johnsen begins a three-match suspension. "Our problems would test any squad in the country," Hoddle said.

Roy Aitken, the Aberdeen manager, took his season's spending to £1.7 million when he signed Dean Windass, 26, the Hull City striker, for £700,000. Aitken's previous raid into England took Paul Bernard, the Oldham Athletic midfield player, to Pittodrie for £1 million.

Hull agreed to sell because of their increasing financial problems. The fee will clear their immediate debts.

Ebdon's place in UK final nearly secured

By Phil Yates

PETER EBDON virtually guaranteed his place in the final of the Royal Liver Assurance United Kingdom snooker championship by establishing a 7-1 lead over Andy Hicks, the surprise package of the tournament, at Preston Guild Hall yesterday.

Ebdon, edged out 9-8 by Stephen Hendry in the semi-finals last year, had one timely slice of good fortune as he moved to within two frames of avenging his defeat by Hicks in the quarter-finals of the world championship seven months ago.

An 84 clearance in the opening frame suggested that Hicks had maintained the form which carried him to a 9-7 quarter-final victory over Ronnie O'Sullivan but, thereafter, Ebdon was in control.

Ebdon, already successful at the Rothmans Malta Grand Prix and runner-up in the Regal Scottish Masters this season, won the second frame with a 69 break, the third from 47 points in arrears and led 3-1 at the mid-session interval. He launched a run of 107 in the fifth with a fluked red to a middle pocket.

However, Hicks had only himself to blame in the next when, after recovering from a 33-0 deficit with a 53 break, he overstretched when attempting to pot the green off its spot, which would have left Ebdon needing a snooker had he been successful.

Ebdon doubled the green into a baulk pocket, potted a tricky brown using the rest and eventually stole the frame he had seemed certain to lose on the black. That was 5-1 and Ebdon pressed home his advantage by adding the closing two frames of the afternoon.

Consolation for Hicks, should he indeed be beaten, is that it will need a controversial decision by the sponsors to deny him a wild card for the Benson & Hedges Masters in February.

In the other semi-final, Hendry was expecting stern opposition from John Higgins, the provisional world No 2. Even so, Hendry was entitled to feel confident after winning 36 of the 47 frames in his first four matches.

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7/4	Cinderford T.	9/4	Gravesend	5/4
4/9	Crewe Alex.	5/2	Mansfield	13/2
7/4	Enfield	9/4	Woking	5/6
5/4	Fulham	9/4	Brighton	7/4
4/11	Gillingham	3/1	Hitchin	13/2
8/13	Hereford	11/5	Sutton Utd.	9/2
5/2	Kingstonian	9/4	Plymouth	10/11
8/15	Oxford Utd.	12/5	Northampton	5/1
2/7	Peterborough	7/2	Bognor	8/1
11/10	Rochdale	9/4	Darlington	2/1
7/4	Scunthorpe	9/4	Shrewsbury	5/4
1/3	Stockport	10/3	Blyth Spart.	13/2
1/3	Swindon	10/3	Cardiff City	13/2
9/2	Telford Utd.	12/5	Notts. County	4/7
9/4	Torquay Utd.	2/1	Walsall	11/10
Evs	Wrexham	2/1	Chesterfield	5/2

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SPORT IN BRIEF

McCullough has home advantage for defence

WAYNE McCULLOUGH, of Ireland, defends his World Boxing Council bantamweight title against Johnny Bredahl, of Denmark, at the Kings Hall, Belfast, today (Srikumar Sen writes). Bredahl, 27, is an excellent boxer whose technical skills have given him an undefeated record in 25 contests.

He could pose early problems but McCullough should soon move ahead and stop the Dane by the eighth. McCullough has developed into one of the most exciting boxers Britain has produced since Barry McGuigan, to whom he has been likened. "I went to some of Barry's fights here," McCullough said. "Now I want that kind of atmosphere."

Craik heads qualifying school

GOLF: Tracey Craik, of Scotland, shot a final round of 75 to win the American Express Tour qualifying school tournament at La Manga, Spain, yesterday. Craik, who had led from the second round, finished with a level-par aggregate of 288, two strokes clear of Anne-Marie Knight, of Australia, with Tracy Loveys, from Dorset, one stroke further behind. Craik had started four strokes clear, but needed to recover her poise on the inward nine after bogeying the 8th and 9th.

Cup rivals ready for revenge

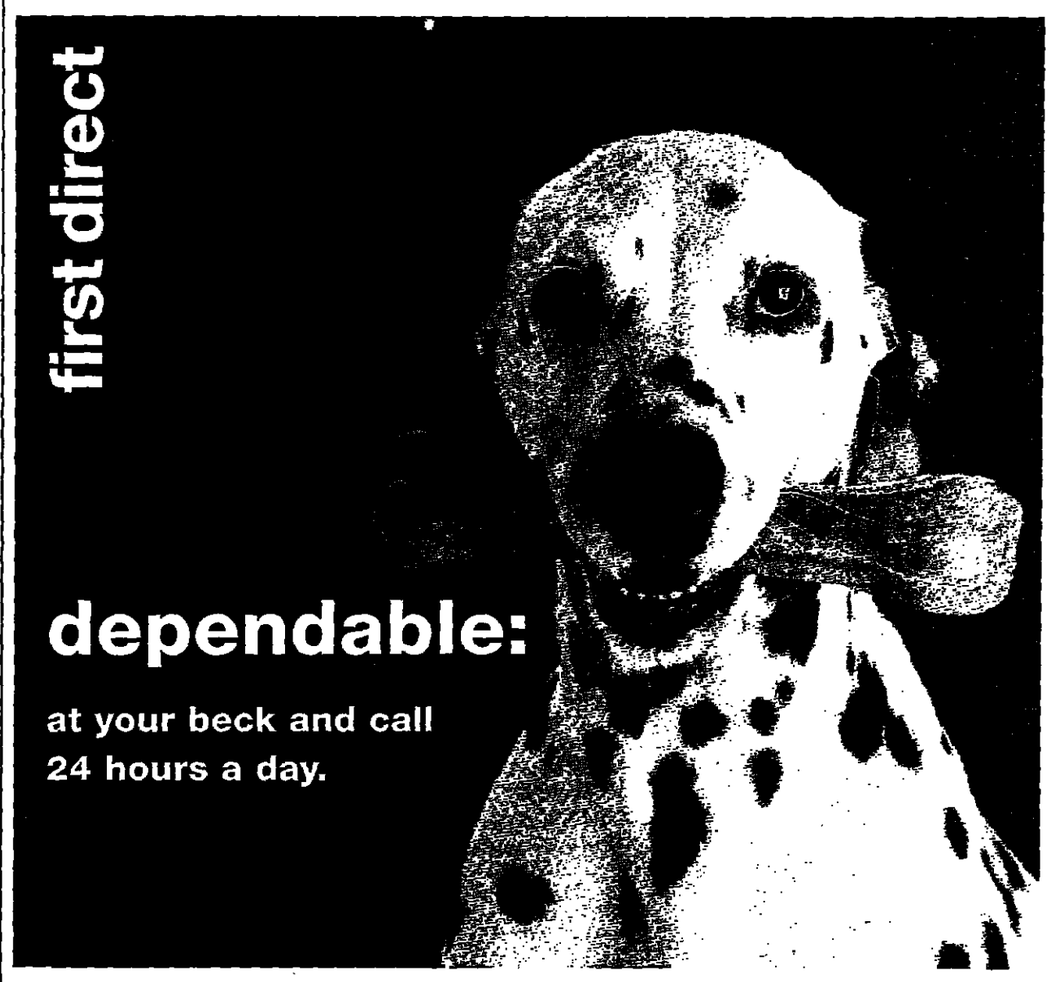
HOCKEY: Havant and Hounslow each have a score to settle when they meet in the fourth round of the Hockey Association Cup at Duke's Meadow, Chiswick, tomorrow. Hounslow will be hoping to avenge the 4-1 defeat Havant inflicted upon them in the National League two weeks ago, while the visitors still recall the 1991 cup final, which they lost 3-2 to the London side.

Brittin is great again

CRICKET: The England women's team took a 2-1 lead in the one-day series against India with a 41-run victory in front of a 15,000 crowd in Patna yesterday. Janette Brittin, of Surrey, played the crucial innings with 81 in England's total of 194 for six. India looked well placed on 88 for two in reply but lost their next seven wickets for just 10 runs.

Nicol tests Jansher's resolve

SQUASH: Peter Nicol, of Scotland, who was the last man to defeat Jansher Khan, of Pakistan, in tournament play, came closer than the straight-games scoreline of 15-12, 15-12, 17-15 suggests to updating his two-year-old achievement in a 50-minute semi-final of the Qatar International championship in Doha yesterday.



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TENNIS 43
RUSSIANS BRING PRESSURE TO BEAR IN FINAL

SPORT

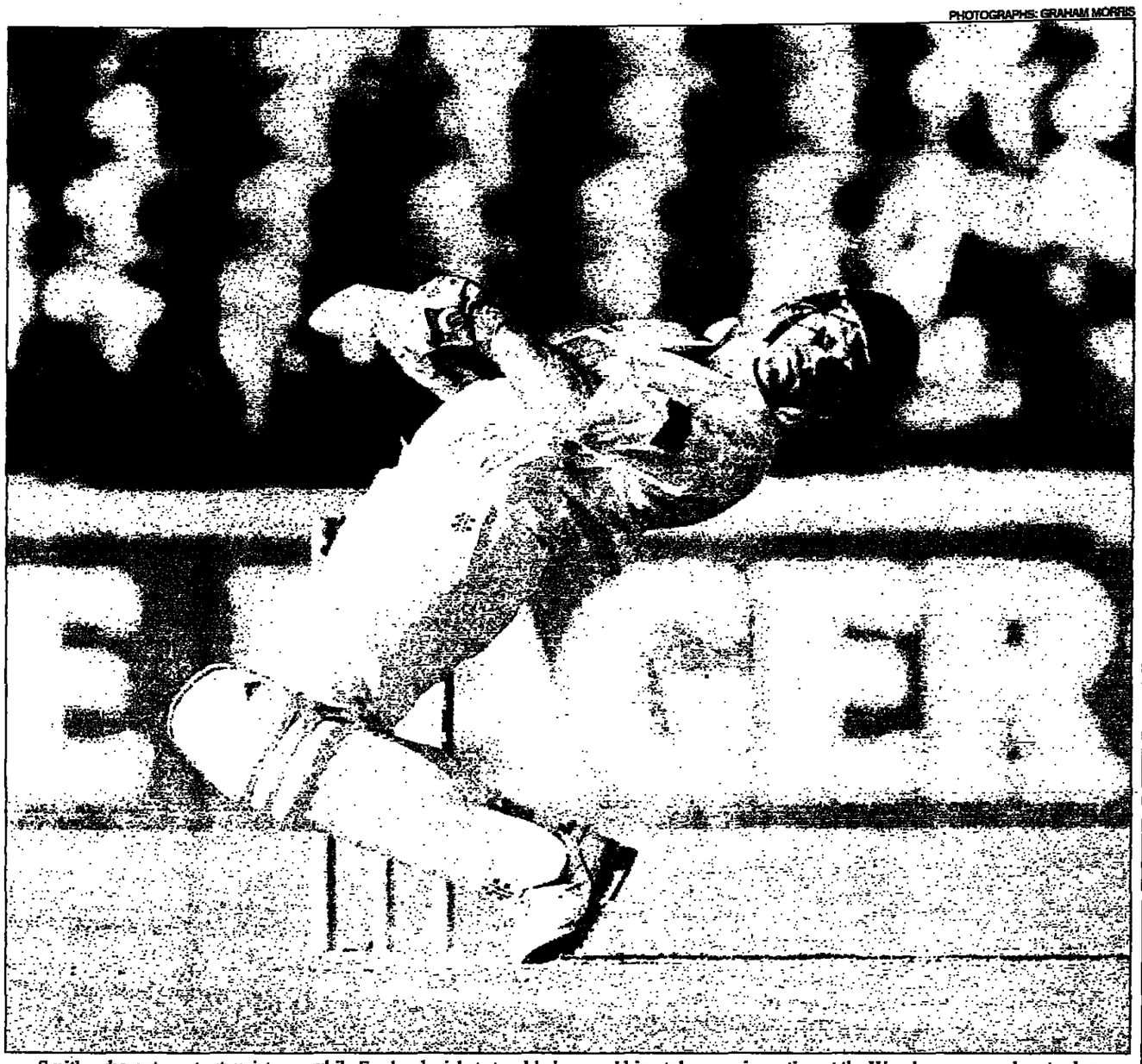
RACING 44-45
LONESOME TRAIN ON TRACK FOR SANDOWN DOUBLE

SATURDAY DECEMBER 2 1995

Batting collapse gives South Africa first-innings lead of 132

England dismissed out of hand

PHOTOGRAPHS: GRAHAM MORRIS



Smith, who put up stout resistance while England wickets tumbled around him, takes evasive action at the Wanderers ground yesterday

FROM ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
IN JOHANNESBURG

JOHANNESBURG (second day of five): South Africa, with all second-innings wickets in hand, are 137 runs ahead of England

ENGLAND have been contemplating this second Test match for too long and now, such has been the confusion in their strategy and the carelessness in their cricket, they may be regretting it for even longer. The extraordinary decision to surrender the initiative by bowling first was fully exposed yesterday, but it was not the sole cause of England's plight, for their batting was so brittle and fatalistic as to be unacceptable whatever the stage of the game.

Their total of 200 was their lowest in a first innings since the fateful events at Edgbaston in July. There are no gremlins in the surface at the Wanderers to compare with the Birmingham minefield, but, as there is also no doubt that the pitch will deteriorate over the three remaining days, an innings deficit of 132 is close to conclusive.

Six weeks into the tour and with the series still awaiting a proper launch, England have fallen into the trap of those with time on their hands. They have been guilty of hatching overelaborate plans, flying in the face of precedent and logic, and they could pay for it by giving away control of the series to South Africa.

Waughs stand firm 42

It is difficult to identify any area of England's second-day performance worthy of praise, with the exception of a resolute innings in severe adversity, at team and personal level, by Robin Smith. Openly doubted, before the game, by the England manager, Raymond Illingworth, Smith made 52 with characteristic tenacity. He, at least, can now plan for a future in this series, which is more than can confidently be said about Angus Fraser and Mark Ramprakash.

Fraser's bowling, when off colour, can look ploddingly inoffensive and it was punished sternly yesterday morning as South Africa's last three wickets added 54 important runs in 70 minutes. The borderline between dependability and predictability is narrow and Fraser has overstepped it here. It comes hard to criticise such a Trojan but he is plainly in need either of more work — which casts grave doubt on the decision to rest him from the previous game — or of replacement by someone offering greater variety.

Ramprakash's problem is entirely different. Unlike Fraser, his talents are silky and enigmatic but, equally unlike Fraser, his achievements at Test level are minimal. The expectations are now affecting him chronically, so that he seems unwilling or unable to play a shot in anger. Yesterday, he batted virtually an hour and faced 35 balls, of which he laid the bat on only four and scored from only one. When Allan Donald plucked out his middle stump it was almost merciful. Could this really be the same player whose reaction to being dropped by England in midsummer was to pass 100 nine times in 16 innings for Middlesex?

There is, of course, no strict correlation between Test and county form, though the three clubs still trying to entice Shaun Pollock to England next summer will be undeterred by the point. Apart from the mortification of spilling as simple a catch as can have gone down at this level, Pollock is having another fine game. He took three England wickets late in the day, having begun it by pulling Devon Malcolm's first ball for four on the way to a breezy 33.

Malcolm finally got his man — and through another ambitious pull — but not before Pollock had made 30 of the 36 added for the eighth wicket. Dominic Cork was summoned to remove Clive Eksteen, completing his second five-wicket analysis for England, while Malcolm finished with four, and vindication for his inclusion, after bowling Donald.

There was already a suspicion that England had conceded too many runs. It took only as long as the third over of England's reply, and the sight of Michael Atherton shouldering arms to a ball from Donald that clipped his off stump, to be sure that South Africa were the favourites.

Atherton's importance to England is oppressive: lose him early and one always fears the worst. Ramprakash's excruciating hour, and an oddly unconvincing innings from Alec Stewart, did nothing to dispel the concern. England, indeed, might easily have been 51 for four after Ramprakash's end, for Graham Thorpe received the benefit of the doubt when padding up to Pringle's inswinger and Stewart, top-edging a pull against Donald to mid-wicket, was marching smartly towards the pavilion by the time the gift was spurned.

With rich irony, the middle of the England innings was taken out by spin, a variety they themselves considered surplus to requirements. Eksteen, whose five previous Test wickets cost him 359 runs, now took three for nine. He was fortunate to remove Thorpe with his first ball, for he appeared to make contact only with pad when adjudged caught at short leg, but Hick and Russell both perished to ill-judged attacking shots against the flighted ball.

Stewart had gone in a way that summed up England's muddle-headed cricket. It was the last over before tea, an imminent haven after a torrid session, when he clipped Pringle loosely off his legs to a man at short mid-wicket set expressly for the shot. Cork was caught low down at first slip and Pollock was too quick and too straight for Gough and Fraser respectively.

Smith, past 50 but with only Malcolm left for company, returned a catch to McMillan off the leading edge and tossed his bat in the air in irritation. A sense of anticlimax, after so long spent waiting and planning, was England's overwhelming emotion last night.

JOHANNESBURG SCOREBOARD

England won toss

SOUTH AFRICA: First Innings

A C Hudson c Stewart b Cork 0
(28min, 27 balls)
G Kirsten c Russell b Malcolm 110
(353min, 241 balls, 16 fours)
*W J Cronje c Russell b Cork 35
(78min, 51 balls, 6 fours)
D J Cullinan c Russell b Hick 69
(161min, 128 balls, 10 fours)
J N Rhodes c Russell b Cork 5
(22min, 14 balls)
B M McMillan lbw b Cork 35
(85min, 70 balls, 7 fours)
†D J Richardson c Russell b Malcolm 0
(2min, 3 balls)
S M Pollock c Smith b Malcolm 33
(57min, 45 balls, 5 fours)
C E Eksteen c Russell b Cork 13
(58min, 38 balls, 1 four)
M W Pringle not out 10
(30min, 10 balls, 2 fours)
A A Donald b Malcolm 0
(8min, 3 balls)
Extras (b 1, lb 14, w 2, nb 5) 22
Total (104 overs, 448min) 332

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-3 (Kirsten 1), 2-74 (Kirsten 34), 3-211 (Kirsten 96), 4-221 (Kirsten 101), 5-260 (McMillan 26), 6-260 (McMillan 26), 7-278 (Pollock 3), 8-314 (Eksteen 6), 9-331 (Pringle 9)

BOWLING: Cork 32-7-84-5 (nb 3, 9-3-14-1, 7-1-25-1, 3-1-8-0, 4-1-9-1, 7-0-26-1, 2-1-1-1); Malcolm 22-5-62-4 (6-3-16-0, 5-0-22-0, 10-2-23-3, 1-0-1-1); Fraser 20-5-69-0 (nb 2; 5-2-16-0, 5-2-9-0, 6-1-21-0, 4-0-23-0); Gough 15-2-64-0 (nb 1, w 2; 3-0-21-0, 7-2-26-0, 5-0-17-0), Hick 15-1-38-1 (5-0-14-0, 3-0-6-0, 5-0-14-1, 2-1-4-0)

Second Innings

A C Hudson not out 5
(16min, 15 balls)
G Kirsten not out 0
(16min, 9 balls)
Total (no wkt, 4 overs, 16min) 5

BOWLING: Cork 2-0-3-0; Malcolm 2-1-2-0.

ENGLAND: First Innings

*M A Atherton b Donald 9
(11min, 14 balls, 2 fours)
A J Stewart c Kirsten b Pringle 45
(161min, 122 balls, 8 fours)
M R Ramprakash b Donald 4
(58min, 35 balls, 1 four)
G P Thorpe c Kirsten b Eksteen 34
(80min, 53 balls, 7 fours)
G A Hick c and b Eksteen 6
(17min, 14 balls, 1 four)
R A Smith c and b McMillan 52
(141min, 109 balls, 1 six, 8 fours)
†R C Russell c Rhodes b Eksteen 12
(29min, 23 balls, 1 four)
D G Cork c Cullinan b Pollock 8
(58min, 38 balls, 1 four)
D Gough c and b Pollock 2
(21min, 18 balls)
A R C Fraser lbw b Pollock 0
(17min, 11 balls)
D E Malcolm not out 0
(3min, 1 ball)
Extras (b 6, lb 1, nb 21) 28
Total (68.3 overs, 302min) 200

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-10 (Stewart 1), 2-45 (Stewart 25), 3-109 (Stewart 45), 4-118 (Hick 6), 5-125 (Smith 8), 6-147 (Smith 18), 7-178 (Smith 36), 8-193 (Smith 46), 9-200 (Smith 52)

BOWLING: Donald 15-3-49-2 (nb 6, 10-2-32-2, 5-1-17-0); Pringle 17-4-46-1 (nb 8, 3-0-6-0, 6-2-9-0, 5-1-25-1, 3-1-5-0); Pollock 15-2-44-3 (nb 8; 2-0-10-0, 6-0-19-0, 7-2-15-3), McMillan 10.3-0-42-1 (nb 6; 5-0-24-0, 5.3-0-18-1); Eksteen 11-5-12-3 (one spell)

Umpires: D B Hair (Australia) and N E Liebenberg.

☐ *Compiled by Bill Frindall*

'The dish of the day was Cumberland sausage sold by the yard'

Children face future with many colours

Clement Freud finds a bright spot as England collapse in Johannesburg

Another bad day for South Africa's minister for water: the sun shone from a uniformly azure sky, scorched the terrain and, in the uncovered stand, in which you can bake for £1 a day, shirtlessness prevailed.

Inside the main gate, two patriotic schoolma'ms painted the faces of volunteer children; a green nose with yellow cheeks signifying Bok support, a distant second in popularity to the more colourful red, blue, green and white of the ANC banner. Noses tended to be red, ears blue, parents alarmed.

Vendors of merchandise who yesterday concentrated on the home team's emblems are now offering England hats but the best seller remains a ten-rand Coca-Cola balloon, shaped like a sledgehammer, with which the small monsters in the family enclosure lay about each other. A platoon of trained-to-the-minute scratchcard salesmen roam the perimeter.

At 9.30 in the barbecue area, a heavyweight Afrikaaner, wearing shorts and with a comb protruding from his sock, was frying himself breakfast: eight thick rashers of smoked bacon brushed with honey sizzled appetisingly around a mound of field mushrooms. There would be eggs, when the time was right.

Cricket, ever a joyous game, is now becoming more labour intensive. In the beginning there were two umpires; then there were three, the third charged with reviewing critical decisions in the light of TV replays. Now there are four; their names are announced on the public address system and entered in the official record.

"What work did you do, grandfather?" children will ask when King William V occupies our throne. And the old man will reply: "I was a fourth umpire: it was a steady job. As I never did anything, there was no cause for anyone to criticise my work. I never had a bad game. It was a job for life."

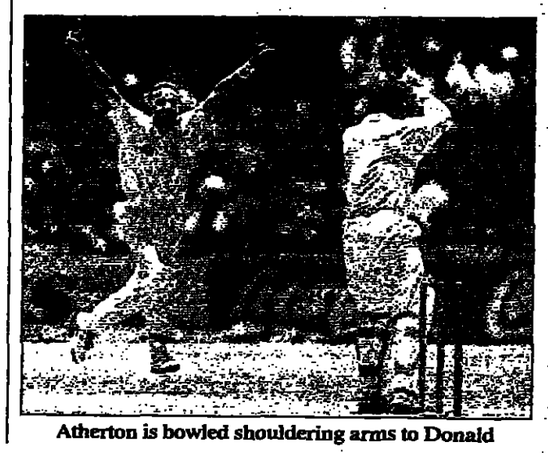
Cricket played at the highest level, as it is here at the Wanderers, can never be taken for granted. It is a brave man who says "nothing is going to happen for a while" and embarks on a visit to the ice-cream van ... which is how I missed the dismissal of Pollock, Eksteen and Donald.

Determined to miss no more, I had a brief luncheon in the barbecue area where gastronomes season their meats with Tabasco, coriander, mustard seed and olive oil while the rest salivate over tenderised topside sprinkled with "barbecue flavouring". The dish of the day was Cumberland sausage sold by the yard, so difficult to turn over on the grill that bits of sausage fly through the air with the greatest of grease.

Rather as transatlantic football scribes specialise in defence (pronounced deefence) or offence, or in monitoring the performances of referee and line judges, so would I like to be a specialist cricket writer. Subject: opening partnerships. "By our opening partnership correspondent" is the byline of my dreams. Not only is this an important part of an innings, helping to determine the eventual outcome and therefore deserving of in-depth analysis, but, on a good day, I could get away long before the departing crowd makes egress uncomfortable.

South Africa's openers only lasted half an hour but their first wicket fell in bizarre circumstances deserving elaboration. A dismissal accepted by the world's press as being "lbw" was amended to "caught gully", necessitating a new page of Windows 95 to right the misunderstanding.

England's openers, too, were worthy of more words than I am allowed ... with Atherton shouldering arms to a ball that nipped back and removed his bails. "Not the best way of getting out," Ian Botham opined, "nor the worst." The latter, in his view, is being run out by Boycott before you have faced a ball.



Atherton is bowled shouldering arms to Donald

Hardcastle savours sweet taste of gold at last



Hardcastle: retribution

FROM CRAIG LORD
IN RIO DE JANEIRO

THERE could have been no better place than Copacabana beach for Sarah Hardcastle finally to enjoy her moment in the sun. Before 7,000 screaming Brazilians here yesterday, she became world short-course champion at 800 metres freestyle at the Arena pool, nine years after retiring with medals whose colour, silver and bronze, was mainly dictated by an East German machine.

How sweet was the retribution for Hardcastle, 26, as she passed Dagmar Hase, of Germany, with 200 metres to go and went on to give Britain its first success of these world short-course championships on a day that saw Karen Pickering unable to defend her title in the 200 metres freestyle, after failing to make the final.

Hase, Olympic champion at 400 metres freestyle, was the opponent who had dedicated her title to Astrid Strauss, the only East German to test positive for steroids and the woman who kept Hardcastle a stroke away from glory in the mid-Eighties.

Hardcastle, who will stay in Brazil on honeymoon with her husband, Lee Thomas, after the championships end on Sunday, held off the challenge of Carla Guerts, of Holland, to win by 0.57sec in 8min 26.46sec.

"It was sheer delight," said Hardcastle. "I knew I had Hase. It was like a flashback. This makes up for all the pain of so many seconds and thirds. At last, I got a gold." Hase faded over the final 100 metres, allowing Luo Ping, of China, to take the bronze medal.

Hardcastle's success was partly overshadowed by the news that two of Britain's three world short-course champions of 1993, Mark Foster and Pickering, have tested positive for illegal substances this year. Cannabis and Salbutamol, a drug used to treat asthma, were found in samples taken from Foster at the French championships in July, according to the French swimming federation.

Foster, who will not defend his 50 metres title here, faces an appeal commission in two weeks, when he can elect to defend himself. Pickering also tested positive for Salbutamol, but the drug is not banned by the International Swimming Federation (Fina) if it is inhaled and the swimmer involved has registered as an asthmatic with his or her federation as a regular user. It is banned if injected, when levels are very high. In Pickering's case, the matter was resolved and the swimmer cleared only two days before she came to Rio.

The second day of the world short-course championships brought world records for Samantha Riley, of Australia, with 2min 20.85sec in the 200 metres breaststroke and Claudia Poll, of Costs Rica, with 1min 55.42sec in the 200 metres freestyle.

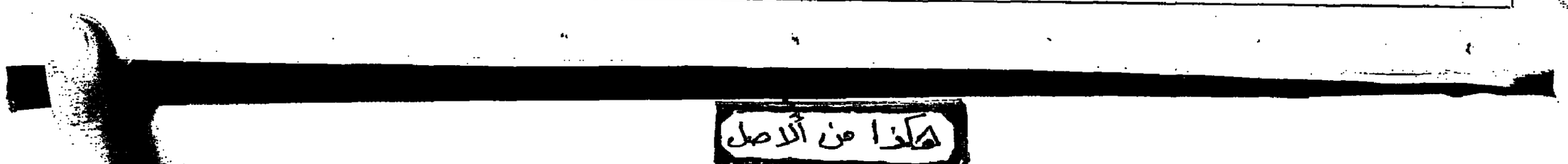
Meanwhile, the frenzy over "Franzi" rumbled on here yesterday as swimming's *enfant terrible* lived up to her arrogant reputation and withdrew from all races bar the relays. Having whetted the appetites of all who admire her formidable talent, Franziska van Almsick, a world champion and millionairess at 17, decided that she was in no mood to take the plunge after having suffered a cold in late October.

The temperamental east Berliner, a star of car and chocolate commercials, had opted to come to Rio because she was over her illness, was fit and felt the Brazilian climate was just the tonic she needed. But after being disqualified for false starting in the 100 metres freestyle on Thursday, she had a sudden change of heart.



Van Almsick: arrogant

GRRR AHA MMM'S PORT
Just roll it round your tongue.



هكذا من الاصل

RACING 44-4
LONESOME TRA
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Literary legacy of a Venetian island

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PLUS: An intrepid tourist in Iran, page 19

BOOKS

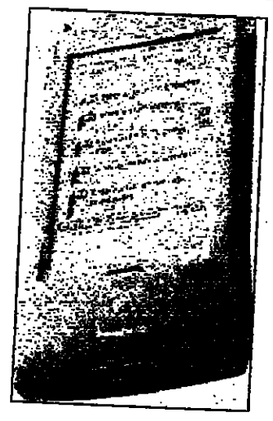


The best of the bunch for children at Christmas

Page 12

PLUS: Nigella Lawson's crop for cooks, page 12

SHOPPING



Toys for the big boys from software Santa

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PLUS: New computer games column, page 23

GAMES



Sharpen your wits on our Punch cartoon

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PLUS: The Listener Crossword, page 23

WEEKEND

THE TIMES SATURDAY DECEMBER 2 1995

LIBBY PURVES: HORSES FOR COURSES



It is a bit of a shock when your 11-year-old daughter comes home in spurs and a red coat, having joined the cavalry. But we parents soon learn to roll with the punches. There is an age when girls operate by one simple rule: if it has four legs and whinnies it's worth knowing; if not, not. We had had the voltige-riding (circus tricks but don't dare say so) phase and the compulsive tack-cleaning; the bit where the subject wakes up in bed reciting a dressage test, and the other bit where you miss seeing her over the big double jump because your face is buried in your shaking hands. You expect these things. But not a spurred and booted, frogged and buckled 5ft 2in dragoon. That one caught us completely by surprise.

It transpires that the mildly eccentric riding stable she frequents at Valley Farm, near Wickham Market in Suffolk, boasts not only a camel called Gobi and a sheep that pulls a cart, but its own Mounted Troop. Its members meet fortnightly and, once a year, parade publicly and splendidly in red coats, lanyards, boots, spurs, gauntlets, brass buttons, and clip-on safety ties bought as a job lot from the police. All this shoestring militaria is overseen from a command Portakabin by a gentle, determined former railway ticket office manager called Dave Foster. Moreover, it is part of his NVQ: this represents, let me tell you, the cutting edge of the new Further Education. Fall in, eyes front, pay attention: this story tells a lot about modern Britain, not all of it disheartening.

The NVQ, National Vocational Qualification, is a new way of acknowledging skills at work rather than academic theory and was launched by the Government in 1986. There are 11 categories, from manufacturing to "communication": the millionth has just been awarded, to a travel consultant. Candidates "demonstrate competency" while working, which could mean anything from making birdcages to licensed gaming, funeral directing, or running an underage cavalry regiment. In times when nobody expects a job for life, the NVQ claims to "demonstrate how elements of one job interrelate with another", and provide some benchmark for individuals to carry round on their search for the next job. An increasing number of adults take them, especially if they lack other paper qualifications. And those who teach any kind of skill are leaping on the bandwagon and getting themselves grant-aided. All over Cornwall this summer there were signs saying: "SCUBA FOR THE UNEMPLOYED. Your five-day diving course can, properly accredited, give you credits towards an NVQ." Come to think of it, why not?

All this educational inventiveness has been developing through the 1990s, but mean-

Continued on page 3, col 1

Cellnet and Vodafone think Saturday should be peak rate on their business tariffs,

Orange thinks the whole weekend should be off-peak.

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Comparison based on equivalent tariffs.

2 CHOICE

Planning to see a show or a film, an exhibition or a concert? *The Times* critics select the best entertainment

MUSEUMS

John Russell Taylor

THE PEACEFUL LIBERATORS: Compared with Hindu and Buddhist art from India, that of the Jains has been relatively little known outside India — like the religion which it reflects. Although the characteristic figure of the Jina (one who has attained enlightenment) is confined to Jain art, it is often closely comparable with images of the wise and the enlightened in Buddhist art. Another area which is special to Jain art is the cosmological painting: the Jains were great builders of observatories and were fascinated by the workings of the heavens, both as a fact and as a symbol. Many of the 120-odd works included are remarkably beautiful, and reflect in their tranquillity the strictly non-violent tenets of the faith.
V&A Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 (0171-938 8441) Mon 12noon to 5.30pm, Tues-Sun 10am-5.30pm, until Feb 18 1996 (closed Dec 24-26). Admission £3.50. Concessions £2.25.

IN PURSUIT OF THE SPIRITS: The sculptures in this show come exclusively from the Northern Territories of Canada, and are therefore all the work of the Inuit, or Eskimos as they used to be called. The development of sculpture larger than pocket size is relatively recent among the Inuit: skills honed on the carving of small and readily portable pieces such as personal jewellery, amulets, ritual masks and fetishes have been turned to the making of much larger figures — mainly animals out of stone, ivory, bone and horn. Though we tend to speak of the Inuit and their art as though they were one uniform culture, the widely separated communities each have their own pet subjects and styles. The extraordinary variety and emotional rigour of the art are well reflected.
Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Queen Street, Exeter (01392 265858) Tues-Sat 10am-5.30pm, until Jan 27 1996.

FILM

Geoff Brown



Kevin Bacon as Henri Young

MURDER IN THE FIRST (15): Though its show-off director, Marc Rocco, causes some distraction by constantly moving his camera, this is still an absorbing and forceful drama. Kevin Bacon plays the Alcatraz prisoner who faces a charge of first-degree murder after he attacks an inmate. Christian Slater is the public defender who takes up his case. Since the prison system is so obviously vicious, there is no doubt where our sympathies lie. Based on a true story.
MGMs: Fulham Road (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

GOLDENEYE (12): He may be a sexist, misogynist dinosaur, but 007 can still cut the mustard, thanks to Pierce Brosnan's sardonic twinkle and the film's mix of affectionate self-mockery and slam-bang action. There are faults. Director Martin Campbell plays all his cards in the first hour. The plot is too distended, and Alan Cumming's computer geek grates on the nerves. But after the high-tech blockbusters of Schwarzenegger, Bond's latest battle to save the world from destruction has an almost cuddly charm. With Sean Bean, Izabella Scorupco and Famke Janssen.
Barbican (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Notting Hill Coronet** (0171-727 6705) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Leicester Square** (01426 915683) **Marble Arch** (01426 914501) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332)

OPERA

Rodney Milnes

AIDA: The Royal Opera's principal guest conductor, Daniele Gatti, takes charge of the first revival of Elijah Moshinsky's production and has an inviting cast at his disposal. Sharon Sweet, one of the best of the new generation of bright-voiced, healthily built, US sopranos sings the title role, and the no-nonsense US tenor Michael Sylvester is her Radames. The ever-reliable Simon Estes sings Amonasro, and all ears will be on Nina Terentieva, singing her first Amneris here.
Royal Opera House, Bow St, London WC2 (0171-304 4000), Mon 4, Fri 8, 7.30pm.

MATHIS DER MALER: Last chance to catch this rare outing for Hindemith's riveting study of the artist's role in times of political turmoil. Ignore the self-regarding Sellars production: revel instead in the musical riches unfolded by the conductor Esa-Pekka Salonen, to whom the excellent ROH Orchestra and fine cast — Alan Titus, Inga Nielsen, Stig Andersen — respond with proper fervour. Leave ten minutes to bone up on the synopsis in the ROH's libretto, which is better than the programme.
Royal Opera House, London WC2 (0171-304 4000). Wed 6, 7pm.

CLASSICAL

Richard Morrison

KRONOS QUARTET: Not only the world's trendiest string quartet, the Kronos must also be one of the best. I just wish that they would play something that wasn't written yesterday: they would be sensational in Beethoven. Their Tuesday concert contains two British premieres: John Adams's quartet, which the composer describes as "a book of dances for which the steps have yet to be invented"; and Tan Dun's mysterious *Ghost Opera*, which involves references to Bach and the use of "water gongs".
Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (0171-928 8800). Tues, 8pm

BOSTON COLLECTIVE: On the subject of trendy American music, get a load of this lot. "The Master Musicians Collective of Boston" turns out to be a group of composers. They will provide seven pieces of chamber music, all new to Britain. Playing these epics will be some of our finest chamber musicians: the Alberni Quartet and the English Virtuosi.
Wigmore Hall, London W1 (0171-935 2141), Mon, 7.30pm



Jain art, on show at the V&A Museum in London, reflects in its tranquillity the non-violent tenets of the Jain faith

JAZZ

Clive Davis

DAVE BRUBECK/ CHRISTIAN McBRIDE: With his 75th birthday falling this week, Brubeck will perform *Blue Rondo à la Turk*, along with arrangements of Christmas melodies. The turbo-charged bass player, Christian McBride, another of the guests on the Brubeck disc, sweeps into London to help to inaugurate the city's newest and, they say, largest jazz club, The Rhythmic.
Brubeck: **Barbican Centre**, Silk St, London EC2 (0171-638 8891) tonight, 7.30pm; Sun 3pm. McBride: **The Rhythmic**, Chapel Mkt, London N1 (0171-713 5859) Sun 7.30pm.

ASTRUD GILBERTO/NORMA WINSTONE: Three decades after she sang the English lyrics to *The Girl From Ipanema*, Astrud Gilberto still commands a cult following. Her visit should provide an excuse for a riot of Sixties nostalgia. A stalwart of the British scene, Norma Winstone has long been associated with the esoteric branch of jazz vocals. But she is a straight-ahead singer too. Her London residency will concentrate on mainstream standards, plus some of her own compositions.
Gilberto: **Jazz Café**, Parkway, London NW1 (0171-344 0044). Until Sun 10. Winstone: **Pizza On The Park**, Knightsbridge, London SW1 (0171-235 5273) Mon 4-16, 9.15pm and 11.15pm

THEATRE

Benedict Nightingale

THE MASTER BUILDER: Alan Bates proves himself a worthily robust successor to Olivier, Redgrave, John Wood and Brian Cox as Ibsen's Solness. Peter Hall's lucid, direct revival also offers Gemma Jones, surprisingly sympathetic as wintry Mrs Solness, and a wonderfully intense performance from a newcomer, Victoria Hamilton, as the troll-like girl who comes to renew dead lives.
Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800). Mon to Sat, 7.45: matinées, Wed and Sat, 3pm.

THE GLASS MENAGERIE: Previews begin for a well-merited transfer of Sam Mendes's sensitive yet astringent homage to Tennessee Williams. The author based the Southern matriarch on his own mother: but Zoë Wanamaker claims the character for reality, showing the battling integrity of her fight to keep the family afloat in alien St Louis.
Comedy, Panton Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731). Previews begin Dec 7, 7.30pm. Then: Mon to Sat, 7.30pm: matinées, Sats, 3pm.

DANCE

John Percival

CINDERELLA: London City Ballet's production of Prokofiev's ballet has been well received on its autumn tour. Now it faces London audiences for a Christmas and New Year run. Young Royal Ballet dancer Matthew Hart is the choreographer, making his first shot at a three-act work.
Arts Centre, Poole (01202 685222) today, 2.30 and 7.45pm: **Sadler's Wells Theatre**, London EC1 (0171-713 6000) Dec 16 to Jan 6 (except Dec 25, 26), 7.30pm, matinée Sats and Dec 20, 26, 27, 29, 2.30pm.

PETER PAN: Every ballet company struggles to find entertainments suitable for children at this time of year. Scottish Ballet's solution is to revive its 1989 production of *Peter Pan*, with choreography by Graham Lustig.
Edinburgh Festival Theatre, Edinburgh (0131-529 6000) until next Sat, 7.30pm; matinée Sats at 2pm, Thurs at 1.30pm: **Theatre Royal**, Glasgow (0141-331 1234) Dec 12 to 30 (except Dec 25, 26) at 7.15pm, matinée Dec 14, 20 at 1.30pm, Sats and Dec 28 at 2.15pm.

ROCK

David Sinclair

TOWERING INFERNO: Using a dramatic and sometimes provocative combination of film and music, Towering Inferno bring to life their apocalyptic album *Kaddish*, a powerful vision of the social and cultural history of the Jews in Europe. With its constant, colossal swings of tempo and mood, accompanied by specially produced film sequences projected on to three huge screens, it is no ordinary concert experience. Not a polemic, despite its politically charged subject matter, *Kaddish* is a rounded and emotionally challenging work of art that throws new light on what has happened to the very soul of Europe in the last 100 years.
Shepherds Bush Empire, London W12 (0181-740 7474), Dec 3.

THE AMPS: The Amps is the latest spin-off project to feature Kim Deal, formerly of Pixies and still, theoretically, leader of the Breeders. Staffed by various muso-hooligan types from Deal's hometown of Dayton, Ohio, the Amps dish out a raw brand of American indie-rock. Having just finished an American tour with alternative soulmates Sonic Youth, they arrive this week for their first headlining shows in Britain.
Garage, Glasgow (0141-332 1120), Dec 5; **Lomax**, Liverpool (0151-236 0329), Dec 6; **London Astoria 2**, W1 (0171-434 0403), Dec 7.

GALLERIES

Richard Cork

IN TRUST FOR THE NATION: While some stately homes are closed for the winter, the National Gallery is displaying a choice array of their paintings in a special exhibition. Full-length portraits dominate the largest rooms. They range from Van Dyck's sumptuous painting of Sir Robert Shirley in Persian costume, to an autumnal Reynolds likeness of the Hon Theresa Robinson. Lightheartedness enters the room devoted to conversation pieces. But stillness prevails in one of the show's masterpieces, an irresistible and luminous view of Dordrecht by Cuyp. Even the most well-known exhibits, such as the large Claude landscape from Petworth, look far better in museum conditions. Will the National Trust learn the lesson, and display their paintings better in future? I hope so.
National Gallery, London (0171-839 3321) until March 10.

JOHN MOORES LIVERPOOL EXHIBITION: Armed with a £20,000 first prize, the 19th John Moores show at the Walker Art Gallery continues to fight for the cause of paintings. At a time when so many young artists are exploring other media, this open-submission exhibition places pigment on canvas centre-stage. And this year's prize winner, David Leapman, contributes a large, spectacular image called *Double-tongued Knowability*. His use of Dayglo and Nightglo, as well as acrylic, adds to the fascination of his exhibit. Abstract images can be found in the show, most notably by the cool Mark Francis and the rumbustious Albert Irvin. But the majority are figurative.
Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool (0151-478 4614) until Jan 28.

WEST END THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London
■ House full, returns only ◪ Some seats available ☐ Seats at all prices

☐ **BREAK OF DAY** Timberlake Wertenbaker play in which Out of Joint's *Three Sisters* company looks at women's circumstances a century on from Chekhov. Max Stafford-Clark directs.
Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (0171-730 1745) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Sat, 3.30pm

◪ **THE CABINET OF DOKTOR CALIGARI** A stage version of the German silent classic. Good sets, unearthly music, and a haunting performance by John Ramm as Matthew Kelly's sleepwalking killer.
Lyric, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 (0181-741 2311). Today, 2.30 and 7.30pm. Final performances

◪ **A CHRISTMAS CAROL:** Revival of Ian Judge's popular but over-sweet production. Clive Francis plays Scrooge.
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Now previewing, 7.15pm, opens Dec 7, 7pm. Until Jan 13

■ **COMPANY** Sheila Gish and Adrian Lester in the cast of 14 for Sondheim's bittersweet musical on love, relationships and staying single. Sam Mendes directs.
Donmar Warehouse, Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732). Now previewing, 7.30pm. Opens Dec 13.

☐ **DEAD FUNNY** Belinda Lang, Kevin McNally and Sam Kelly in Terry Johnson's sharply funny play about comics and some of their fans.
Savoy, The Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8888). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.15pm, mats Wed, 2.30pm and Sat, 5pm

◪ **DESIRE UNDER THE ELMS.** Shared Experience back in town with O'Neill's passionate drama of father-son rivalry and forbidden love. Nancy Meckler directs.
Tricycle, Kilburn High Road, NW6 (0171-328 1000). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Dec 6, 2pm and Sat, 4pm

◪ **THE HOLOCAUST TRILOGY:** Julie Pascal's plays, unrelated save for the common theme of Nazi persecution. *Theresa*, disgraceful behaviour in the Nazi-occupied Channel Islands; *A Dead Woman on Holiday*, a Jewish survivor working at the Nuremburg Trials; *The Dybbuk*, classic drama relocated to a 1942 ghetto.
New End, New End, Hampstead, NW3 (0171-794 0022). Tue-Sat, 8pm. All three on Sundays, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm

☐ **HOBSON'S CHOICE:** Leo McKern in the title role of Harold Brighouse's warm-hearted comedy. Nichola McAuliffe and Graham Turner excellent as daughter and son-in-law.
Lyric, Shaftesbury Ave, W1 (0171-494 5045). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, Sat, 3pm.

◪ **KNIVES IN HENS** Philip Howard's Traverse Theatre production of new David Harrower play: set in Scotland's distant past, "a powerful story of liberation through forbidden love".
Bush, Shepherds Bush Green, W12 (0181-743 3388). Mon-Sat, 8pm.

■ **MACK AND MABEL.** Jerry Herman's musical set in early Hollywood. Fine songs, though a troublesome book. Starring Howard McGillin and a delightful Caroline O'Connor.
Piccadilly, Denman Street, W1 (0171-369 1734). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm

◪ **THE SHAKESPEARE REVUE:** A witty evening of song, dance and sketches to do with William S. Assembled by Christopher Luscombe, Malcolm McKee Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm; mats Wed, 2.30pm and Sat, 5.30pm

◪ **THE SIMPLETON OF THE UNEXPECTED ISLES:** Written when Shaw was 78, and never publicly performed in London. Kate O'Mara and Reed Rew play Priestess and Priest of a perfect society, just as an angel announces the Day of Judgement. Sam Walters directs a true rarity.
Orange Tree, Clarence Street, Richmond (0181-940 3633). Now previewing, 7.45pm. Opens Dec 4, 7.45pm; until Jan 27.

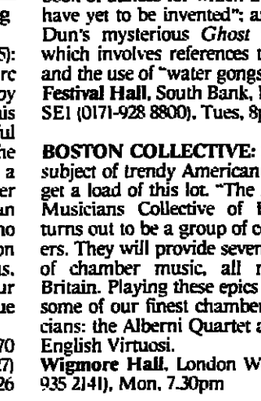
◪ **TAKING SIDES.** Enthralling drama by Ronald Harwood, based on the investigations of conductor Furtwängler's alleged Nazi sympathies. Superb performances by Daniel Massey and Michael Pennington.
Criterion, Piccadilly Circus, WC2 (0171-369 1747) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 2.30pm

■ **THREE TALL WOMEN** Maggie Smith, Sara Kestelman and Samantha Bond in Edward Albee's fascinating play about the adoptive mother who withered his childhood.
Wyndhams, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736). Tue-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

☐ **TREASURE ISLAND** Roy Marsden and a largely fresh cast do the old yo-ho-ho. Marsden's Long John apart, last year's production was cooly received, but this time Phil Wilmot directs so here's hoping.
Mermaid, Puddle Dock, EC4 (0171-236 2211). Now previewing, 7pm, mats Sat and Tue, 2.30pm. Opens Dec 5, 7pm. Then Tue-Sat, 7pm (except Dec 12, 6.30pm). Mats most days 2pm or 2.30pm. Until Jan 13

■ **THE WAY OF THE WORLD** Phyllida Lloyd directs Congreve's most famous comedy of love frustrated and fulfilled. Roger Allam and Fiona Shaw interesting as the lovers, Geraldine McEwan outstanding as a tragic Lady Wishfort.
National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Today, 2.15 and 7.30pm

■ **THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS:** Jeremy Sinden plays Toad in the new annual return of the National Theatre production; Jeremy Sams directs.
Old Vic, Waterloo Rd, SE1 (0171-928 8555). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 2.30pm; mats daily in week of Dec 26, 2.30pm.



Clive Francis is Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*

◪ **AN INSPECTOR CALLS:** Stephen Daldry's powerful production, with Nicholas Woodeson as the all-knowing Inspector, and Edward Peel and Susan Engel as the pillars of society.
Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085). Mon-Fri, 7.45pm, Sat, 8.15pm; mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 5pm.

■ **JOLSON.** The highs and lows of the singer with with a monster ego. Brian Conley belts out the songs and Sally Ann Triplett is an impressive Ruby Keeler.
Victoria Palace, Victoria Street, SW1 (0171-834 1317). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

☐ **THE JUNGLE BOOK.** Tim Supple directs his adaptation of three of Kipling's Mowgli stories for the Christmas season.
Young Vic, The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 6363). Now previewing, today, 2.30 and 7pm. Opens Dec 5, 7pm. Ring box office for schedule.

◪ **KNIVES IN HENS** Philip Howard's Traverse Theatre production of new David Harrower play: set in Scotland's distant past, "a powerful story of liberation through forbidden love".
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Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

◆ **CANDYMAN 2** (18) Feeble adventures of the urban bogeyman created by Clive Barker. With Tony Todd, Kelly Rowan. Director, Bill Condon.
MGM Trocadero (0171-434 0031) **Plaza** (0171-437 1234) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

ELISA (15). Overwrought French tale of a fearsaway kid who seeks out her father. With Vanessa Paradis, Gérard Depardieu. Director, Jean Becker.
MGMs: Piccadilly (0171-437 3561) **Swiss Centre** (0171-439 4470)

IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER (15). Actors struggle to mount *Hamlet*. Overmanic comedy from Kenneth Branagh, with Michael Maloney, Joan Collins.
Barbican (0171-638 8891) **MGMs: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Odeons: Haymarket** (01426 915353) **Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Phoenix** (0181-883 2233) **Richmond** (0181-332 0030) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Waterman's** (0181-568 1176)

◆ **MAD LOVE** (12): Shallow tale of runaway lovers, with Drew Barrymore and Chris O'Donnell. Director, Antonia Bird.
Empire (0171-437 1234) **MGM Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636)

◆ **MURDER IN THE FIRST** (15): See Critics' Choice, above.

MY DARLING CLEMENTINE (U): John Ford's wonderful 1946 western about Wyatt Earp, with Henry Fonda, Linda Darnell and Victor Mature.
Renoir (0171-837 8402)

◆ **THE SANTA CLAUSE** (U). Divorced dad becomes the new Santa. Broad family comedy with a human face, featuring Tim Allen. Director, John Pasquin.
MGM Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **West End** (01426 915574) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332)

SISTER MY SISTER (15). Modest chamber piece about a stifling French household. With Jowly Richardson, Jodhi May and Julie Walters. Director, Nancy Meckler.

MGMs: Haymarket (0171-839 1527) **Tottenham Court Rd** (0171-636 6148)

CURRENT

L'AVVENTURA (PG). Monica Vitti lights up the screen as the forlorn, questing heroine of Antonioni's 1960 classic. A welcome revival.
Screen/Hill (0171-435 3366)

THE BASKETBALL DIARIES (18). Leonardo DiCaprio descends into heroin's hell. Scott Kalvert directs unedifying version of Jim Carroll's book.
Clapham Picture (0171-498 3323) **MGM Trocadero** (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332)

THE BRIDGES OF MADISON COUNTY (12). Best-selling romantic tosh given the kid-glove treatment by director Clint Eastwood, who co-stars with Meryl Streep.
MGM Panton Street (0171-930 0631) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

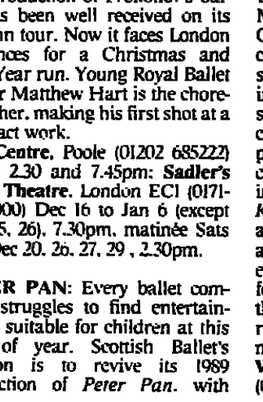
◆ **CLUELESS** (12). Life and empty minds of Beverly Hills teenagers. Frivolous fun from director Amy Heckerling, with Alicia Silverstone.
Ritzy (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

◆ **CRIMSON TIDE** (15): Antique heroics in a nuclear submarine, with Gene Hackman and Denzel Washington. Director, Tony Scott.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** (0171-434 0031) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Mezzanine** (01426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332)

FARINELLI (15). The life of an 18th-century castrato. Lots of opera, sex and clothes, but Gérard Corbiau's film only scratches the material's potential.
Curzon Mayfair (0171-369 1720) **MGM Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148)

◆ **GOLDENEYE** (12). See Critics' Choice, above.

◆ **FRENCH KISS** (12). Dizzy Meg Ryan gets entangled with French rogue Kevin Kline. Charmless romantic comedy, directed by Lawrence Kasdan.
MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** (0171-434 0031) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)



Paige Tamada in *The Santa Clause*

◆ **POCAHONTAS** (U): Strangely dull slice of American history, a backward step for Disney cartoons after *Aladdin* and *The Lion King*.
MGM Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

◆ **TO DIE FOR** (15): Delicious social satire about a television weather girl's murderous lust for glory. Gus Van Sant directs Nicole Kidman and Matt Dillon.
MGM Haymarket (0171-839 1527) **Odeons: Kensington** (01428 914666) **Mezzanine** (01426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Whiteleys** (792 3332) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

◆ **TO WONG FOO THANKS FOR EVERYTHING, JULIE NEWMAR** (PG): New York drag queens charm the mid-West. Cosy comedy drama, with Patrick Swayze, Wesley Snipes and John Leguizamo. Director, Beeban Kidron.
Plaza (0171-437 1234) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332)

UNDER SIEGE 2 (18): *Die Hard* on a train, with an impressive star (Steven Seagal), a cunning villain (Eric Bogosian), and much tedious action.
MGM Trocadero (0171-434 0031) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

◆ **A WALK IN THE CLOUDS** (PG): Vacuous 1940s romance with Keanu Reeves as a returning soldier who finds a new life in California's vineyards. Director, Alfonso Arau.
MGM Trocadero (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

LAND AND FREEDOM (15): Ken Loach's powerful Spanish Civil War drama, with Ian Hart, Rosana Pastor.
Curzon Phoenix (0171-369 1721) **Odeon Mezzanine** (01428 915683) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402)

LIVING IN OBLIVION (15). Trials and tribulations of making a low-budget movie. Delicious comedy from director Tom DiCillo, with Steve Buscemi.
MGMs: Panton St (0171-930 0631) **Shaftesbury Ave** (0171-836 6279)

PANTHER (15). Hurting, rose-tinted drama about the rise of the Black Panther movement in the 1960s.
MGM Trocadero (0171-434 0031)

LA HAINE (15). Powerful, angry drama about volatile youths on a Paris housing estate. Director, Mathieu Kassovitz.
Gate (0171-727 4043) **Lumiere** (0171-836 0691) **MGM Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker St** (0171-935 2772) **Screen/Green** (0171-226 3520)

هكذا من الأصل



MARK HARRISON

The annual parade is a big event for the children in the Mounted Troop at the riding stable

Continued from page 1

while. Dave Foster began the Troop just because he wanted to. "I'd always been into military music and parades. I got hold of an old Ceremonial drill manual, and we got some flags made." He began managing the troop in much the same spirit as he ran a boys' football club for 15 years: for fun. The children pay a small subscription and the cost of an hour's ordinary riding lesson, and get two hours of riding, stable management, and troop drill.

But 18 months ago, after a long career with British Rail, Dave was made redundant. Managers in mid-life are well-advised not to hold their breath while waiting for job offers, so he enrolled at a Suffolk college for an NVQ in Supervisory Management Level 3. Hence, last time I watched a Troop Day there was not only the usual rabble of girls brushing the feet of horses feet, but also a chap with a notepad sitting in the corner: Mike Hallett, of the Otley College Business Management Unit. He was solemnly assessing Dave against a list of Attainment Targets, and Dave was teaching Cadet Ainsley Murdoch, 12, how to draw and sheathe a ceremonial sword. "Preparation, drawing, returning. There are correct ways to do all three."

Nicola, already a Corporal, demonstrated the desirable tightness of one's sword belt, attachment of the sling, and that nasty moment when a 5ft person tries to extract a man-sized replica sword and hold it aloft before smartly re-sheathing it without running herself through the thigh. "See — get your elbow behind the body — s'right — your arm's going to ache!" Second Lieutenant Rosalind Shaw assured me, a passing nervous mother, that obviously you do it without letting go the reins. And that no, nobody has yet cut the pony's head off by accident. At my elbow, minute Cadet Gemma Murdoch, 8, watches with narrowed eyes. Wait till she gets her sword.

The official Biro flashes busily. Well it might; it transpires later that in teaching Ainsley how to get her sword out, Dave Foster has met no fewer than 19 of the myriad "targets" for his NVQ. More are met by his presentation on the management structure of the troop, from Parade Commander and NCOs down, and of the cadets' progression through various grades, examined by riding instructors. Horses too are under supervision. "Will Canterella put up with a sword? No, perhaps not, take Angel." There is more wriggling than you generally see among the Household Cavalry, but the final parade is creditable, and ticks go down on the clipboard, totting up Dave's Level III.

> 'However much you do in your community, if it's not paid employers don't rate it'

"They said," Dave admits, "that I could use my BR experience for a course. But I wasn't comfortable with that. It's been a long time. I prefer this. And it is management." Mike Hallett agrees. "Some of our training-for-work students have placements at Telecom or whatever. But it can be anywhere. I assessed the surroundings, inspected his hut, got a picture of the management skills involved. They can be broken down and codified. Things like this should be counted as evidence to offer employers. Why should it just be artists and graphic designers who have portfolios to show? Why shouldn't a manager have a portfolio, too? We have rigorous formative and summative assessment."

And so on. If you are not good at management-course jargon, are only just getting over the shock of your daughter bouncing around with a sword on, it is a bit heavy. But it is some kind of answer to the old complaint, the one which plagues women who take a long family break from paid work, and which now also afflicts men after a period on the dole. The problem is that however much you do in your community — leading Scouts, running Meals on Wheels with steely competence — employers don't rate it. You can be, like Dave, effective and conscientious and never idle; but if it isn't paid it doesn't count. The wilder shores of NVQ, with all its absurdities, offer a genuine attempt to give credit where it is due.

Unfortunately, says Mike Hallett, employers so far show "very little evidence that they understand what we offer them. But it's early days. Under any government, NVQ is here to stay. They will get the idea. This is the future."

Dave finds the intricacies of the system baffling even after the baroque ticketing structure of BR; but he is getting his credits, and everybody enjoys the Troop. And frankly, it is better managed than some of the railway ticket offices I could mention these days. So there you are. And, by glorious serendipity, another mid-life between-jobs manager on the same course at Otley is Colin, a former Lieutenant-Colonel in the Life Guards, who rode at the Investiture of the Prince of Wales. Dave, with true managerial initiative, brought him along to a practice.

"He said we're doing an awful lot of things wrong. We knew that. It's entertainment. But he gave us some good hints, like how to tuck your scabbard behind your spur. He's coming again." Colin says: "Well, my reaction was mixed. Horror, to a degree, and surprise. When you've done all that for real you wonder why anybody does it as a hobby. But I'm very happy to pass on some tricks of the trade."

Which is how it comes about that Suffolk girlhood is earning its spurs with an ex-BR man and a real Life Guard, all in the cause of the educational revolution designed, as the Department of the Environment puts it, to "raise the standard of Britain's skills base and so increase our competitiveness".

Well, it might. Cheer up. Never say life in Britain is not a rich, unpredictable, tapestry.

Front cover image by MARK HARRISON

Dividends of the gentle touch



GILL ALLEN

Jayne Simmons has built on her aromatherapy skills by taking NVQs in facial massage and wax depilation

Jayne Simmons describes herself as a "stress management consultant". Based at Egham in Surrey, she talks to clients about their problems and she also applies skills gained in two NVQs, one in the relaxing practice of facial massage, and the other in the more painful art of wax depilation.

In 1989, Mrs Simmons was a drilling engineer for an oil company, but she says she was becoming "bitter and twisted" as a result of working in the industry. She accepted the offer of voluntary redundancy, and drifted into her present career. She started dabbling in aromatherapy, and then acquired the skills of massage, reflexology and waxing through various recognised courses.

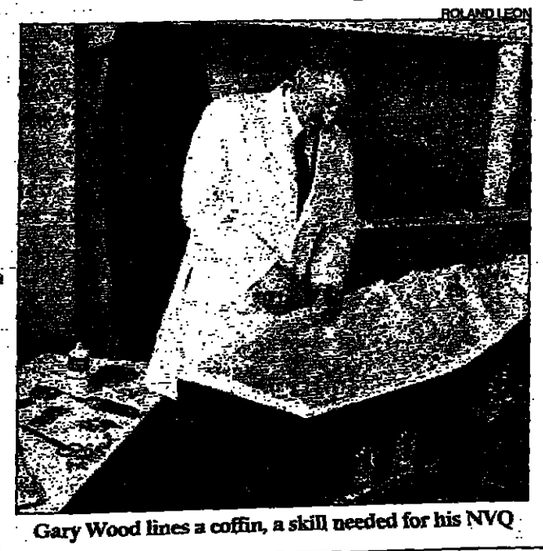
But with all these skills, and at the age of 31, why did Mrs Simmons need some NVQs? "They give an edge," she says, "especially to the self-employed. It's a nationally recognised qualification, in which one can demonstrate practicality underpinned with written work."

This may sound very party-line, but even the NVQ in Wax Depilation calls for a thorough understanding of anatomy and the physiology of hair follicles, in a course that lasted for three hours a week over ten weeks. The NVQ in Facial Massage took up three months' worth of weekends, in which she had to undertake twenty documented facials involving different skin types. The two courses cost her a total of £350, which was tax deductible because Mrs Simmons is self-employed.

Mrs Simmons is not sure whether her clients appreciate her qualifications. "To most people they are just three letters that don't mean much," she says. "But I think the whole project has the workings of a good system, so long as it has decent money put in it."

GUY WALTERS

In recognition of a dying art



ROLAND LEON

Gary Wood lines a coffin, a skill needed for his NVQ

FOUR YEARS ago, at the age of 43, Gary Wood was made redundant as a coalminer, a job he had held for 17 years. A local vicar pointed him in the direction of the funeral services. "For all my working life I had been involved in the caring side of things," he says, "I had worked for the Mines Rescue Sevice, and I had also worked part-time for the local fire service."

Mr Wood joined the Co-Operative Funeral Services in Rugeley, Staffordshire, on a casual basis, and after six months was given a full-time job. His tasks include removing the deceased, receiving bodies into the mortuary, preparing and dressing them and, as conductor, leading the cortege.

AT PRESENT, Mr Wood is just under half way through his NVQ in the Funeral Service. Financed by his employer, the course consolidates all his skills, and teaches him what he calls the "Hard Core", which covers aspects such as the role of the coroner.

Like many, Mr Wood is taking an NVQ so that the work he does has a national recognition. "It means that the skills are standardised," he says. "There are a lot of differences in practice throughout the industry, and this helps to iron them out."

Having an NVQ will also mean that Mr Wood has more job mobility, and he says that it helps his self-esteem. "I find it immensely helpful," he says. "After all, anything that improves the job has got to be good news."

GUY WALTERS

Ruth Gledhill meets a priest as much at home in a studio as in a church

Media man with a ministry



WITH its fabulous golden reredos, altar and tabernacle, the ornate stations of the cross, the plain, hard, oak pews, the pretty statue of the Virgin, the Lady altar and the underlying simplicity of the enormous, ship-like nave, a visitor might at first mistake St Augustine's, in Kensington, west London, for a Roman Catholic church. This was not a service but a "mass", my neighbour whispered when I asked for a service sheet. Clergy were not "Mister" but "Father", he admonished. But the solemn procession of crucifer, servers, clergy, Lord Bishop, churchwardens, dean and archdeacon, and the slow playing of the organ made this service unmistakably Anglican.

We were there for the licensing of a clergyman whose beliefs place him firmly within the high church tradition of St Augustine's (where a former vicar once organised regular Anglo-Catholic congresses in the nearby Royal Albert Hall), but who is a model for the church in the next millennium. The Rev Robert Marshall is one of a growing band of non-stipendiary ministers, combining unpaid parish ministry with a full-time career. In Fr Marshall's case, the career is in the media. From the front room of his beautiful, rambling, old-fashioned Victorian vicarage next door, he will be running a communications consultancy. Fr Marshall, a regular on BBC Radio 4's *Daily Service*, *Pause for Thought* on Radio 2, and Radio 5 Live, announced this week that he had acquired his biggest client to date: the new Archbishop of York, Dr David Hope. The agency, called 33rpm, named after his initials and the age when he conceived the idea, will also serve Fairlink Christian Travel, a pilgrim tour company, and the Diocese of Europe.

Parishioners, in an area which has by tradition opposed women priests, are grateful to have him. The previous incumbent, Fr Ken Hewitt, had been there for 38 years. The enormous church dwarfed his regular congregation of 25.

In some respects the service was like a wedding. In the front row were family friends, including the actress Dame Thora Hird and her daughter Jan. Dame Thora recently wrote a book, *Pilgrim in the Holy Land*, with Fr Marshall. She describes how she was travelling in a horse-drawn chariot to Petra in Jordan when a wheel caught in a hole and it overturned, requiring Fr Marshall to rescue her.

The Archdeacon of Middlesex, the Ven Tim Raphael, took the service. Dame Thora read the first lesson, from Corinthians. "Where the spirit of the Lord is present, there is freedom," she said. Our Gospel, read by Fr Mark Oakley, a curate at St John's Wood, was Fr Marshall's favourite passage, about the Transfiguration.

The Bishop of Southwark, the Right Rev Roy Williamson, took an anonymous "back seat" in a front pew, and we all wondered what he was doing there until the sermon explained everything. Fr Raphael, a self-effacing man, is transformed in the pulpit into a fiery, eloquent and passionate speaker. He described how Dr Hope, then Bishop of London but now an Archbishop, "stole" Fr Marshall from Bishop Williamson. "Rob's written a book about the Transfiguration; maybe the only bit of scripture with which he's familiar, for all I know," the Archdeacon began, inspiring shocked giggles from the congregation. "It is the right mystery to start this ministry with," he said, before confessing: "I've not read the book, *The Transfiguration of Jesus*, published in 1993, £6.95, Darton Longman Todd," offering Fr Marshall a free advertisement. "But the Transfiguration speaks of a place of vision, a place where you can see things in their true light."

He said that many had questioned the future of the parish, but he had no doubts. "Here you have a faithful priest, whose feet are on the ground, who is concerned above all with communication." But he warned: "Be careful of communications people. You never quite know what is going to happen."

St Augustine's Church, 117 Queen's Gate, Kensington, London SW7. Tel: 0171-581 1877

AT YOUR SERVICE

A five-star guide

PRIEST-IN-CHARGE:
The Rev Rob Marshall

ARCHITECTURE:
Designed by William Butterfield, architect also of Keble College and of Rugby College chapel. ★★★

SERMON:
Entertaining romp through the qualities of a modern-day media vicar. ★★★★

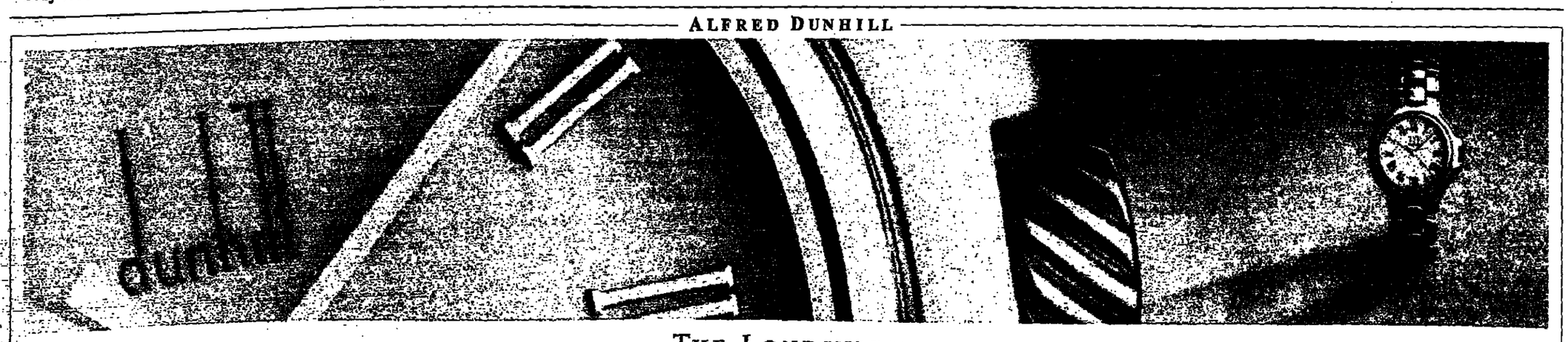
MUSIC:
The church has no choir, but students from the Royal College of Music nearby sang. ★★★★★

LITURGY:
Fr Marshall declared his loyalty to the Thirty-Nine Articles of religion and the Book of Common Prayer and swore allegiance to the Queen. ★★★

SPIRITUAL HIGH:
A Royal Family member is reputed to say: "High, but not too high." ★★★★

AFTER-SERVICE CARE:
A feast. ★★★★★

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WEEKEND SATURDAY DECEMBER 2 1995

My impossibly crowded marriage

FARMER'S DIARY: PAUL HEINEY



Sooner or later I suppose I shall have to subject myself to a full and frank interview about the breakup of my relationship. "Was it ever true love, or a marriage of convenience?. Did I go into it with virginal innocence and high expectations?" They are sure to ask whether I have been faithful all these years, whether it is true that I was so desperate at times, so unsupported, that I hurt my arms and legs with pig-buckets. They will ask whether I was provoked into the final break-up by my wife's revelation to Mrs Jonathan Dimbleby (when her husband bought a farm on the proceeds of some other interview) that I smelt of dung. There have been three of us in this marriage for some time now — me, her, and the farm — and yes, it was a bit crowded.

Wives are easy, but let no one try and tell you that being married to a farm is a doddle. She has been a hard mistress: moody, unpredictable, ever ready to trip you up if you try to lead a normal life. You cannot be a farmer for long before you get the uneasy suspicion that you have enemies. Fat, sleek, enemies, with limited intelligence and impeccable pedigrees. Paranoia? Post-lambing depression? Why else do I now firmly believe that somehow, for example, the latches on the gates communicate with the electric fencer which passes a message to the National Grid to warn them that I am enjoying a brief interlude of peace and tranquillity? So they act. The power goes off, the electric fence goes dead, the sheep hop through and, just as they get as far as the gate to the lane, the latch drops off and they are free. That sort of thing. Enemies.

Did I make nuisance phone calls, 300 of them in a short space of time? Yes, I did. In the early days I was never off the phone. Poor Farmer White got the worst of the nuisance calls, many along the lines of: "The cows are out, can you give me a hand to catch them. Oh, is it really eleven o'clock at night?" Or there was the occasion when I arrived home from a holiday to take an answering machine message, the notorious Redpollgate tape, which said: "Did you know your cows have been in our swimming pool?" That led to more nuisance calls while I rounded up an army to extract them. In fact, they'd only got as far as the grass round the swimming pool and had not quite changed into bovine bikini and taken the plunge. Ever since that incident I saw those cows as part of an inner circle which was plotting against me, trying to rock my mental stability. They did a jolly good job.

"Did I suffer from an eating disorder?" Yes. I got sick to death of the way sheep curled up and died, and decided I couldn't stomach any more of it. The tenuous link between a ewe and her life is one of the most slender threads I have come across, and it snaps when you least expect it. I have had ewes work to the point of exhaustion to deliver their lambs, then get up and walk across to the trough as if nothing had happened. Some other ewes will merely be walking across the meadow, when they think to themselves, "Ah well, I think we'll die here," and down they drop, stone dead. It is enough to put anyone off their dinner.

"Have I tried to injure myself?" No need: everything on the farm managed to do that for me. Our white cow, Sage, is quite good at handing out the punishment. She enjoys that silken little patch on the top of her head, between her ears, being gently rubbed. As you stroke, she bends her head and licks your boots. It makes you feel, well, royal. She has a look of James Hewitt in her eyes: adoring. Then she whips her head in the air when you are least expecting it and gives you a painful clout under the chin. Cows. They build you up just to knock you down.

Which brings us to infidelity. "Have I been unfaithful?" The honest answer is yes, yes, a thousand times yes. All farmers are. To prove it, watch a farmer driving down a country lane. His eyes will be anywhere but on the road ahead. Instead they are darting from side to side, coveting their neighbour's crops, looking at the other man's grass (which truthfully is always greener), worshipping someone else's farm buildings. Do not think farmers drive Range Rovers for status reasons; it is simply that they are one of the highest cars you can get, which makes it that much easier to peer over hedges.

I do the same. I have gazed longingly at other men's fields, soil, muck-heaps, landscapes. I have wanted to take any number of farms in my arms, hold them close and tell them I love them. I remember two flings in particular: one was in the Yorkshire Dales with the snow falling and the other on the edge of a Cornish cliff with a wild Atlantic Ocean breaking at its feet. To answer your next question, Mr Bashir, yes, I adored them. But I knew they would let me down. I may be as thick as a plank, but not that thick. I am strong now. I can do without a farm. I am considering my future role, possibly as an Ambassador. Governor-General of Bermuda would be nice.

STEVE HILL

Mead makers develop a taste for tradition

One of the ancient industries of Wales has been quietly infiltrated by the English



Tony Cornish with a bottle of his mead. The traditional packaging has helped sales to tourists who want to take home a reminder of Wales

Rather like actor Hugh Grant in the recent cinematic slice of Welsh whimsy, a handsome Englishman called Tony Cornish went up a hill in the Principality and came down with something of a commercial mountain.

It all began when 33-year-old Mr Cornish, a former magazine editor, and his wife Judith decided they would prefer to bring up their children in the country, exchanging the crowded South East of England for the outskirts of Llangollen, which they had encountered on a canal holiday in North Wales.

The couple bought Ty Brethyn, a former tweed mill, but faced the problem of what to do with the five acres of hilly land that came with the house. Their first thought was an orchard. "I'd always wanted to grow old-fashioned apples," Mr Cornish says. He answered an advertisement in *Country Living*, offering saplings. The proprietor asked him to describe his site and immediately told him he should be growing vines.

Brushing aside protestations about the latitude of Llangollen, she persuaded Mr Cornish to invest in 1,500 plants for a three-acre slope beside the house. The vines are thriving, but the new landowner quickly discovered that the cost of installing distillation equipment for no more than 1,000 bottles of wine a year was prohibitive. "You can't lay out that capital and use it once a year."

An alternative project had to be found. As a keen amateur historian, Cornish had been struck by the number of references to mead he encountered locally. His starting point was the dictionary, which defined mead simply as "fermented honey". For a year he researched the subject. Old books confirmed that the alcohol in genuine Welsh mead had been a product of fermentation and was not added.

A cursory survey of contemporary meads revealed that they were fortified with brandy. "That can't be right," says Mr Cornish. "If our forefathers had brandy, why would they have needed mead?" It is the modern concoctions that are responsible for mead's reputation as a sweet, even sickly, drink.

Mead making, which can take place all year, would complement their viniculture perfectly. Next, Mr Cornish began to collate ancient recipes found in home-brew publications. Those involving exotic ingredients, such as gorse-flower, were rejected in favour of more accessible flavours.

A professional wine expert in Devon advised them on the commercial value of their recipes. Mr Cornish's process involves fermenting a mixture of honey, clear spring water from his own well and fruit juices, all inoculated with wine yeast. Fermentation takes three months in four stainless steel chambers, each of 3,400 litres. The mead is then matured in oak barrels for six months before bottling.

Traditionally, mead makers boasted a secret element unique to their brews and Mr Cornish is no exception. His mystery ingredient involves an undivulged mixture of herbs and spices.

"Fermentation behaves differently with large quantities," he explains. "You have to experiment." In the first six months they produced 12,000 bottles. "We thought they would last 18 months, but they sold out in six." He produced six flavours. The most popular are apple and blackcurrant.

In the second year, production rose to 15,000 bottles, half of which were sold through a small shop in Llangollen town centre. This year the target is 60,000 and could be increased to 100,000 without changing the nature of the enterprise. "Our aim is to create a small-scale, quality business that retails its own products."

Tony and Judith Cornish are Christians, a commitment they believe is central to the conduct of their enterprise. "We believe strongly that it is possible for a commercial business to turn in a profit without stamping on people's necks." Mr Cornish says. "We would like to employ more people under good conditions and at a fair rate."

The Cornishes take stands at various agricultural shows and find medieval banquets and historic re-enactments of battles ideal showcases for their wares. Mead is the earliest alcoholic drink in this country, Mr Cornish claims. It is mentioned in the writings of Chaucer, in the laws of Hywel Dda (Hywel the Good, a 10th-century Welsh ruler) and even in the letters of Jane Austen. The Welsh utilised the best honey for mead, while the English ate theirs and fermented the washings of the honeycombs for drink.

Eventually, Mr Cornish would like to provide his own raw materials and is making a start by reducing his reliance on honey imported from across Offa's Dyke. Next year he wants to establish half a dozen beehives at the mill.

He is also planning to add rosehip and elder to his range of flavours. In preparation, he has planted 300 rosa rugosa bushes and is hoping to propagate seeds from an ancient elder tree that grows on his land and is known to the family as the Elder Statesman.

While some rival companies offer their mead in screwtop bottles, he has introduced pottery containers for authenticity. The Englishman would dearly like to see mead re-established as the Welsh national drink. He would be happy to see others set up meaderies in Wales. "As long as they were not shipping the mead in from England and re-labelling it and as long as they were fermenting it and making it properly," he says. "If Scotland can build a tourist industry on whisky, why should not Wales do the same with mead?"

And last week, when the Cornishes sold their meadery to Graham Jackson, also English, they ensured they would be able to maintain their Welsh ambition. The Cornishes will continue to manage the company and plan to expand.

ALAN ROAD

● *Ty Brethyn Meadery, Llangollen, Clwyd, North Wales. LL20 7BS. (tel: 01978 860437).*

● *The mead costs £5.50 for a 75cl bottle.*

A NEW HEAL'S STORE OPENS
ON DECEMBER 1ST



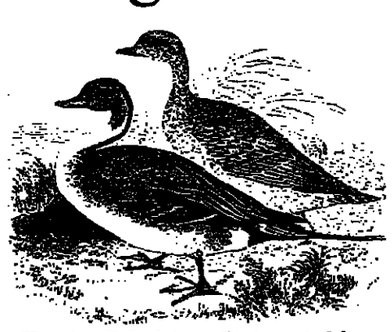
HEAL'S opening
AT 234 KINGS RD
OPPOSITE THE CHELSEA TOWN HALL

Sensitive guest surfaces

OUT IN the middle of the lake, all the waterfowl were black and white. Tufted ducks were leaping forward and disappearing beneath the surface, coots were chugging solemnly along, and a juvenile great crested grebe glided past like a snake that had been twisted into the form of a bird.

But by the bank on the far side there was colour. Some shovelers were pushing their spatula-like beaks through the water, and the bottle-green heads and red flanks of the drakes glowed in the low sun. Then my field glasses caught sight of another duck. This one had a chestnut-coloured head, with a thin white line down the back of it that might have been painted with a fine brush. The line joined up with the bird's white breast; it had a dappled grey body, and a cream-coloured patch in front of its exquisite, long tail.

I had found a drake pintail — a visitor from its summer breeding ground in northern Europe or western Siberia. Pintails are arriving in large numbers just now, and are mostly gathering along the East coast, or on the estuaries of the Mersey and the Dee,



The pintail duck is an East coast visitor

Feather Report

But throughout the winter, odd individuals like mine will turn up at shallow lakes and gravel pits inland.

It swam a little way out from the bank, then "upended". When it was swimming, its pointed tail was slightly cocked, but now that it was dabbling with its head under water, its tail had fallen into line with its body, and stood up vertically. It was facing away from me, and I could see the distinctive black under the tail.

Some of these roaming drakes have a mate with them, but this one seemed to be alone. The female is not so easy to recognise — she does not have a noticeably long tail and is like a slender, grey female mallard.

Pintails have a very sensitive tip to their beak, and can detect underwater worms and small aquatic snails when they "upend", but they do not dive like the tufted ducks. I watched my bird tip up and down several times.

Then something evidently disturbed it. It swam along with its tail lowered, like an uneasy dog. The shovelers went on shovelling, not far away — clearly they were thicker-skinned than the pintail.

Suddenly it was up in the air. It flew rapidly towards me, then swerved off. I could see its slim, streamlined shape in the sky, and I could even hear its wings hissing. It was soon out of sight — a winter wanderer that had gone in search of tranquillity.

DERWENT MAY

● **What's about:** *Birders — Watch out in gardens for over-wintering black caps. Twitchers — red-breasted goose at Sea Palling, Norfolk; lesser yellowlegs at Holme Pierrepont, Nottinghamshire; Details from Birdline. (0891 700222. Calls cost 49p a minute cheap rate, 50p a minute at all other times.*

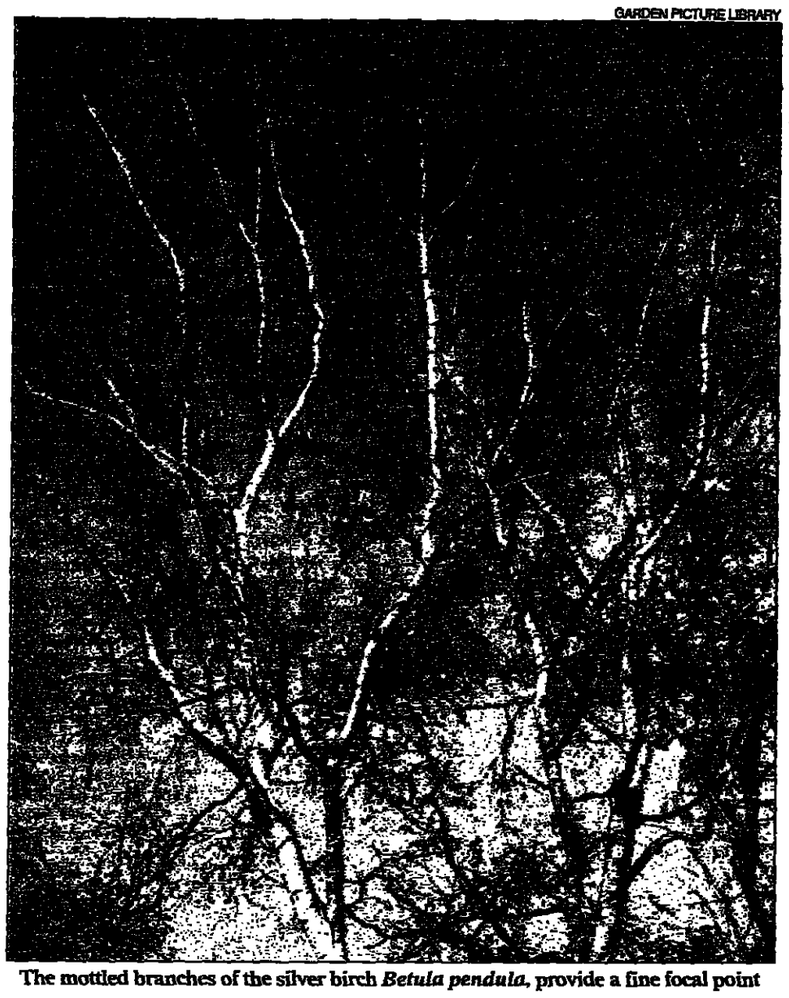


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Skeletal outlines provide a focal point and months of dramatic effect in the dormant garden

Tree barks to colour the bite of winter

GARDEN PICTURE LIBRARY



The mottled branches of the silver birch *Betula pendula*, provide a fine focal point





Prunus serrula, left, and *Betula utilis* var. *jacquemontii*

Visiting a friend's house, I was taken to see the garden. Beyond the drive was a simple lawn merging into a rough-mown meadow and then a field, which had a group of five trees — two live maples and three alders, which had, puzzlingly, given up the ghost this summer.

I suggested replacements which would give more than a skeletal outline during winter: a tree with striking bark that would catch the eye and make a focal point through the months of dormancy.

In this case, on the garden's boundary, the best candidates would be birches; ornamental trees as happy in a garden as in natural woodland.

Betula pendula, our native common silver birch, is ideal for the mottled, grey-white hue of its bark, but even more striking is the brilliant white of *B. utilis* var. *jacquemontii*, which originates in the Himalayas. A lone standard, or group of three of this species in a prominent position towards a garden's boundary will have dramatic winter effect.

The other family of trees most widely grown for decorative barks are the acers, in particular the 'Snakebark' maples, which have distinctively striated white or pale-green and dark-green bark. These should be planted in a garden where they can be admired at close quarters and the subtlety of their markings fully appreciated, rather than as a distant feature for which a birch is ideal. (In general, most acers will not thrive on chalky soil, and you should avoid exposing them to chilly winds.)

Two of the best — both of which are suitable for most gardens as they only ever grow to be small trees — are *Acer grosseri* var. *hersii*, whose bark has a spectacular marbled effect, and the better known, *A. pensylvanicum*, with white and delicately pale-green stripes.

Many people enthuse about *A. griseum*, the 'Paperbark' maple, for its delicate pale-green summer foliage and rich cinnamon-coloured bark in winter. But it is a slow grower so, for strong brown bark, I would go for the cherry *Prunus serrula*, which is also a small tree but grows more vigorously. The bark is unforgettable; burnished, glowing mahogany that makes you want to reach out and stroke the polished surface, and peel away a strip of old bark to reveal the brighter new layer.

There are other cherries with decorative barks, but *P. serrula* is the best and most easily available, so you need look no further. The warmth of this tree's bark is an antidote to the winter garden.

This is also the case with the other main suppliers of long-term winter colour; trees and shrubs with brightly coloured young stems which should be encouraged by hard pruning in March, either annually or every other year. These are especially effective planted along the edge of water, banks of colour vividly reflected.

Easiest to grow are shrubby dogwoods and willows, in particular *Cornus alba* and its variety 'Sibirica' and the "Scarlet Willow" *Salix alba* 'Britzensis'. The young shoots of the cornus are wine-red in colour, while those of the willow are more orange-red. Contrasting shades can be added to a group of plants by two other willows, *Salix alba* var. *vitellina* and *S. daphnoides*, whose new stems are respectively bright yellow and deep purple. These dogwoods and willows are quick growers. Planted now they are best left uncut for their first year and then trimmed back in the following spring, to encourage the vigorous new shoots.

Your garden in winter should be a place of highlights, occasional forte of warm colour and strong form to break the monotones of brown and green. Flowering plants come and go, often short-lived or ruined by fierce weather, but brightly coloured bark can provide dramatic effect for months.

Just as important, such trees are suitable to the prevailing conditions; the bark hues of birch or prunus benefitting from low-slanting winter sunlight; and coloured stems take on a new dimension when coated with frosty crystals.

Depending on space, these trees can be grouped together, but they are just as effective planted singly.

GEORGE PLUMPTRE

WEEKEND TIPS

- *Give winter protection to tender perennials with bracken or fern fronds.*
- *Plant rhubarb in well manured ground, and cover established plants intended for forcing.*
- *Collect and burn fallen rose leaves to prevent the spread of diseases.*
- *Complete the digging of vacant plots and leave them rough for the frosts to break down.*

GARDEN ANSWERS



STEPHEN ANDERTON
replies to readers' letters

Q On our boundary to the road we have an old holly hedge which has diseased leaves and gaps in it. I have attempted to cut out dead and spindly growth. What would you suggest to improve it? - Mrs M. Lambert, Sutton Coldfield.

A The leaves you sent show symptoms of holly leaf miner, an insect which lays its eggs in the leaf in May and June. On important clipped specimen hollies it might be worth treating the problem by spraying with HCH during the egg-laying period. But in a hedge which is struggling anyway, your energies would be better spent simply reinvigorating the hedge. It is better to cut old hollies right down to within a couple of inches of the soil, and then they will throw up a forest of strong, new shoots, making 2ft or more a year. So I would give your hedge a heavy dressing of old manure this winter, and cut it right down in February.

Q I used to burn the trimmings from my 150ft Lawson cypress hedge, but now I have acquired a shredder. Could incorporating too much of this shredded material into the soil upset its balance? - F.L. Cockfield, Tiverton, Devon.

A I would not recommend digging the material directly into the soil, but it would make a good mulch if not applied too thickly. I would not mulch every year on the same border. If the old mulch is intact, then use the next year's batch somewhere else. Continuous mulching with resinous plants can lead to soil acidity, so unless you are growing plants which require acid conditions, it is helpful to lime the soil lightly every few years.

Q This year I grew some eucalyptus trees from seed, and they are now 14 in tall in pots outside. What should I do with them for the winter? I have an unheated, north-facing greenhouse lined with bubble film, and a cold frame which gets sun for half the day. - Mrs Virginia Jackson, Hastings.

A If these are seedlings of a hardy eucalyptus, and you intend to plant one of them, I would do so now. In your seaside climate it stands an excellent chance of coming through the winter quite unscathed. You could always give some protection to its young stem if the weather turned bitter. The others had better come under glass. I favour the cold frame over the greenhouse. The tops of the hardy eucalyptus will take some frost, even in their first year, but it is a bad idea to let the roots freeze.

● *Readers wishing to have their gardening problems answered should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington St, London E1 9XN. We regret that few personal answers can be given and that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. The Times also regrets that enclosures accompanying letters cannot be returned.*

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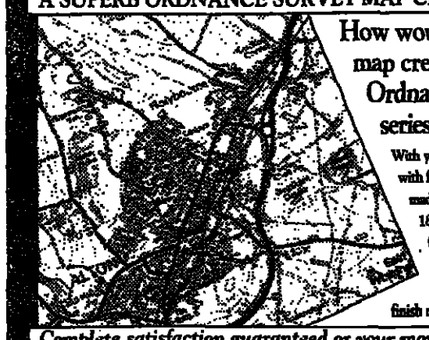
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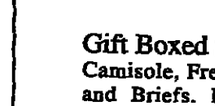
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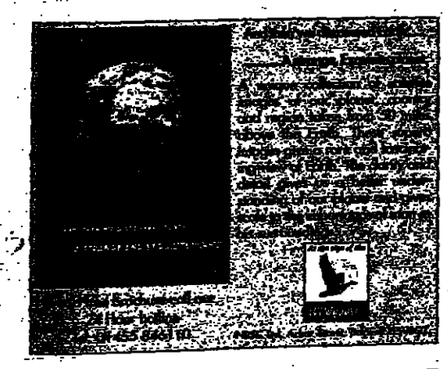


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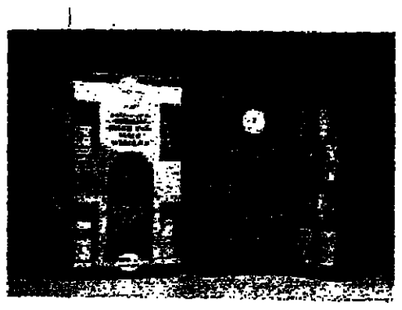


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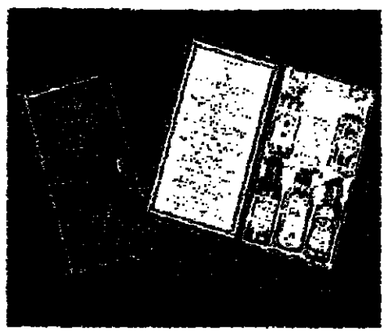


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■ **PEARL JAM**
Merkinball
Epic 662 716 ★★
THE title is a bit of an in-joke, a merkin being a pubic wig (seriously) and the two songs (neither of them called Merkinball) having been recorded during the sessions for Neil Young's *Mirrorball*. On that album, Pearl Jam acted as Young's backing band, and here Young returns the compliment, lending support first on guitar and then on a wheezing pump organ.

I Got ID is a big, dark, windswept monster of a song, with Young's clanging guitar shoring up a typically overwrought performance by Eddie Vedder, his voice running the emotional gamut from despairing moan to tortured shriek. There is flamboyant talk of walking the line and paying the price, although it is difficult to work out what for.

Long Road is a more reflective piece with spaced-out chords underpinned by a gentle but persistent tom-tom tattoo. "And the wind keeps roaring and the sky keeps turning grey," Vedder sings, still sounding inconsolably downcast, but in a more thoughtful way. It is dramatic, desolate stuff and should provide a welcome antidote to the imminent surfeit of Christmas cheer.

JAZZ 1

David Sinclair

■ **VAN MORRISON, WITH GEORGIE FAME AND FRIENDS**
How Long Has This Been Going On
Exile/Verve 529 136 ★★
ROUNDING off a year in which he has had "more awards than hot dinners" (as he rather tactlessly put it when being offered both at *Q* magazine's prizegiving bash last month) Van Morrison has recorded a jazz album.

Knocked out during a single day at Ronnie Scott's last May, and sprung on the market without a word of warning, *How Long Has This Been Going On* is a collection of standards from some of the trustiest pens in the history of the business: Ira and George Gershwin, Johnny Mercer, Mose Allison, Louis Jordan, Lester Young and others.

The band, led by the polished but increasingly sinister-looking Georgie Fame, are a similarly gilt-edged bunch, including trumpeter Guy Barker and saxophonists Alan Skidmore and Pee Wee Ellis. Whether romping through the relaxed mid-tempo swing of *The New Symphony Sid* or savouring the slow, late-night mood of the title track, they make it all sound easy, yet wonderfully spontaneous and graceful too.

The weak link, unfortunately, is Morrison himself. Although a visionary songwriter and a distinctively soulful performer, his ragged diction, approximate phrasing and often wildly suspect pitch fail to meet the exacting technical standards required in the world of straight jazz. He holds his own on blues numbers such as *Early In The Morning and Blues In The Night*, and despatches a handful of his own songs. But elsewhere his performances are blustery and unconvincing.

VIDEO

■ **BULLETS OVER BROADWAY**
Buena Vista, 15, 1994
WOODY Allen's most relaxed film for years: an opulent comedy set in New York's theatre world during the 1920s. Allen stays off-camera, but his mouthpiece is clearly John Cusack, cast as playwright with more aspirations than talent, struggling with the compromises necessary to bring his play to Broadway. Clustered around him is a droll collection of period types: menacing thugs, empty-headed molls, flowery actors. Excellent support by Chazz Palminteri, Dianne Wiest and Jim Broadbent. Available to rent.

□ **CHRONICLE OF LOVE**
Arrow, 15, 1950
THERE is a dynamism and warmth to Antonioni's first feature which is missing in his better-known films of the 1960s. Later characters seem more symbols than human beings; but here Antonioni observes the frailties of his central characters — an adulterous wife, her lover and the husband they plot to murder. The film features Lucia Bosè, Massimo Girotti, Gino Rossi, and a wonderfully plangent soundtrack score. The only drawback is the video copy's old-fashioned subtitles, the kind that vanish whenever a white tablecloth appears.

□ **FOX AND HIS FRIENDS**
Connoisseur, 15, 1975
SOME friends: they pounce on the small fortune that Fox won in a lottery, and whittle it away. The milieu for Rainer Werner Fassbinder's film is homosexual, but his real interests lie in class conflict and the cruel games people play. As lead actor, Fassbinder makes the working-class Fox a blend of the clumsy and cocky; as director, he creates a social kaleidoscope of lavish apartments, sleazy nightclubs and deserted train stations.

□ **THE GREAT WAR**
DD Video, E, 1995
THE ideal Christmas present for First World War buffs: six 90-minute tapes prepared from CBS television programmes. The world's archives were ransacked for footage of the 1917 Russian Revolution, the battles of Jutland, the Marne and the Somme, the Versailles peace conference, and all points in between. A monotonous new commentary and low-grade music may deter continuous viewing, but images of a world in chaos compel attention.



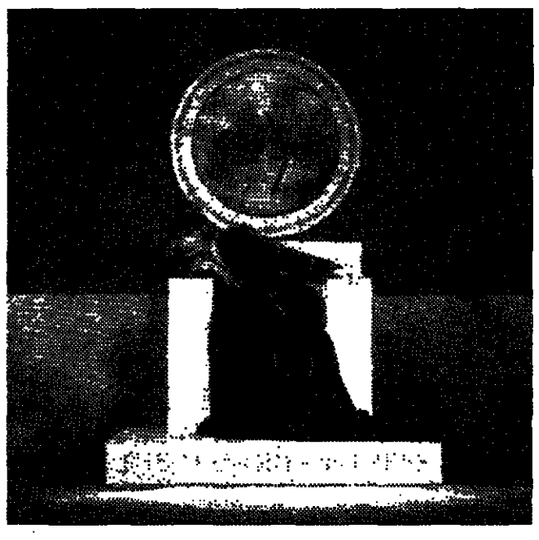
Dianne Wiest and John Cusack, Woody Allen's mouthpiece in the opulent comedy *Bullets Over Broadway*, set in New York in the 1920s

□ **IMAGINE: JOHN LENNON**
Warner Home Video, 15, 1988
FROM troubled Liverpool lad to long-haired peace activist: John Lennon's life makes for a lively film, drawn from material in Yoko Ono's archive. Despite her involvement, enough sharp edges remain. Home movies and news footage blend with special interviews, though the three remaining Beatles escaped the film-makers' net. Directed by Andrew Solt for the documentary specialist David L. Wolper.

□ **JEFFERSON IN PARIS**
Buena Vista, 12, 1995
AUTHENTIC locations, sumptuous costumes and props set the scene for Thomas Jefferson's five years as ambassador to France in the 1780s. Nick Nolte looks the part splendidly, though given James Ivory's distanced way with emotions you have to guess at the tumults within that prompt America's future president to flirt with a married woman (Greta Scacchi), cling obsessively to his eldest daughter, and father children with one of his slaves (Thandie Newton). Available to rent.

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Tormé: retaining appetite for baroque paraphrase

JAZZ 2

Clive Davis

■ **MEL TORME**
Velvet & Brass
Concord CCD-4667 ★★★
WHENEVER Mel Tormé is reunited with a big band, one always hopes for a repeat of his early Verve masterpiece, *Swings Shubert Alley. Velvet & Brass* does not fall far short. At 70, Tormé has, understandably enough, lost a certain amount of range and precision; not to worry, he retains his old appetite for baroque paraphrase.

His oh-so-cool rendition of *I Get A Kick Out Of You*, gliding over opening bars of flutes, Latin percussion and muted horns before indulging in a casual bout of scat singing, could not be confused with that of any other vocalist.

Swings Shubert Alley had the benefit of wonderfully taut arrangements from the pen of Marty Paich, using minimal resources. Rob McConnell's charts for his powerhouse band, The Boss Brass, might at first hearing seem too overbearing for a voice that was nicknamed "the velvet fog".

If they are less rhythmically distinctive, McConnell's settings still deploy some exceptionally subtle combinations of orchestral tones, especially in the interplay of saxophones and French horns.

□ **ROB KORAL/ SUE HAWKER**
Was It Something You Said?
Mastermix CHECD00112 ★★
THE guitar-and-vocal duets of those eternal love birds, Tuck and Patti Cathcart, provide the obvious point of comparison for the collaboration of Rob Koral and Sue Hawker, better known as core members of the British band, Sketch. Hawker, a fine singer, cannot compete with Patti Cathcart's diva-like voice (who could?), yet the arrangements, which occasionally feature the bassist Tony Botelho, are a good deal more rigorous and, more to the point, completely free of saccharine. Koral's lithe but understated accompaniment sheds new light on *Yesterdays* and *I Could Write a Book*.

ORCHESTRAL

Barry Millington

■ **BEETHOVEN**
Triple Concerto/ Choral Fantasy
Perlman/Ma/Barenboim/ Berlin PO/Barenboim
EMI 5 55516 2 ★★★
NEITHER the *Triple Concerto* nor the *Choral Fantasy* has ever won a devoted following. In the case of the former, that neglect is surely unjustified, and this splendid new recording should go a long way to raising its profile.

In the hands of Daniel Barenboim (who conducts as well as taking the solo piano part), the opening tutti has all the tension of an incipient drama. Yo-Yo Ma has the responsibility of leading off the solos in each movement, a task he discharges with the utmost sensitivity.

□ **SCHUMANN/ STRAUSS**
Piano Concerto/ Burleske
Grimaud/Deutsches SO Berlin/Zinman
Erato 0630-11727-2 ★★
WITH her prodigious talent and filmstar looks, the French pianist Hélène Grimaud seemed destined for a glittering career after her award-winning Rachmaninov disc made at the age of 15. That was 11 years ago, and if she is still not a household name, Grimaud's artist biography looks increasingly impressive.

She has now been signed up exclusively by Erato, which has teamed her with the American conductor David Zinman for this disc. The Schumann is done with great charm, the melodies lyrically phrased, the accompaniments sketched in. The Intermezzo, too, marked "Andantino grazioso", is certainly that. But is there anything below this amicable surface?

EARLY MUSIC

Hilary Finch

■ **ROBERT FAYRFAX**
Missa Tecum principium, etc
The Cardinall's Musick
ASV CD GAU 145 ★★★
DOMINATED by the Tudor composer's Christmas Mass, *Tecum principium* (*The Beginning Was With You*), this volume is just the thing for Advent, St Nicholas or Santa's sack.

The three sopranos, three male altos and nine male voices correspond to the six choristers and ten or so singing men of Arundel Castle, where these works were originally sung and are now recorded. They capture the contemplative nature of this Mass in their unfolding of its long sustained lines and their subtly graded dynamic levels.

After pungent puzzle canons for four recorders, the Cardinall's Musick turns to the composer's most accomplished work. The 15-minute votive antiphon, *Maria plena virtute*, is a lively musing on the Passion of Christ, energetically syllabic and as irresistible as this disc.

□ **CLEMENT JANEQUIN**
Mass "La Bataille", etc
Ensemble Clement Janequin/Vissé
Harmonia mundi HMC 901536 ★★
MEANWHILE, across the Channel, Clement Janequin, one of Europe's most avant-garde composers of his time, was trying his hand at the "parody" Mass. Reworking secular material into the Latin Mass established the credentials of many a contemporary composer, and Janequin's skill at calming the battle-song *La Bataille* into the peace of the *Agnus Dei* certainly won him his spurs.

Here the Mass is entwined with another, based on the *Chanson L'Aveugle Dieu*. The strident vowels and coppery consonants of the all-male Ensemble Clement Janequin bring heraldic colour to their banners, in delicious contrast to Fayrfax's soft wool weave.

OPERA

John Higgins

■ **AUBER**
Le Domino noir
Jo/Ford/Cachemaille/Bastin English Chamber Orchestra/ Bonynge
Decca 440 646-2 (2 CDs) ★★★
OUTSIDE France, the reputation of Daniel-François-Esprit Auber rests mainly on *Fra Diavolo*, helped by the film version Laurel and Hardy made of it. But there are plenty of other Auber operas to choose from, and Richard Bonynge has come up with *Le Domino Noir* from 1837.

He admits to tweaking it a bit, slicing much of the spoken dialogue but retaining a handful of the recitatives that Tchaikovsky added when a touring company played it in Moscow. The result is pure boulevard froth, providing a fast-moving vehicle for the Korean coloratura, Sumi Jo.

She plays Angèle, a novice on the verge of entering a nunnery until she thinks better of it and marries into the Spanish aristocracy. Before leaping away from the convent Angèle finds time to go to a masked ball in the black domino of the title. Sumi Jo recently has put aside the mechanical side to her singing and emerges as a sweet and flirtatious performer.

She has sound support from Isabelle Vernet as Brigitte, a fellow novice who does not make it into holy orders either, and there is a fruity performance from Jules Bastin as Gil Perez, a greedy and lecherous convent porter.

Lightness and delicacy are the joint order of the day from Richard Bonynge, and the ECO really responds to him.

★ *Worth hearing*
★★ *Worth considering*
★★★ *Worth buying*

OPERA ON VIDEO

■ **ROSSINI**
Semiramide
Metropolitan Opera/Conlon
The Great Opera Collection PAL 079 209-3
A PROPERLY flamboyant production by John Copley brought three of the world's finest Rossini singers to the Met in 1991.

June Anderson spins out the imperial roulades effortlessly in the title role, and Marilyn Horne matches her as the warrior, Arsace, who turns out to be her son. High point: the "recognition duet" in Act II. Samuel Ramey is Assur, the man who stirs up the trouble in Babylon until he is finally overtaken by hallucinations in front of "Ninny's tomb". All are on top form. Stanford Olsen in the small tenor role of the Indian Prince never lets the side down.

□ **PAVAROTTI & THE ITALIAN TENOR**
Decca PAL 071 168-3
RAMBLING film of the big man at home in Modena, offering a song from time to time, plus a concerted item with the local Rossini Chorale and Papa Pavarotti. Some wise words are uttered about him by Leone Magiera, pianist, coach and conductor. But the most interesting items are rare film clips of the great tenors of the past, including Caruso, Schipa, Gigli and di Stefano. Pavarotti appears to need to hear only one note to know who is singing and is open about his musical influences. There are subtitles.



Pavarotti shows rare clips of great tenors in his film

□ **BIZET**
Carmen
Salzburg Festival/ Karajan
Philips PAL 070 440-3
THE KARAJAN supershow from Salzburg in the mid 1960s. But the filming, apart from some shots of the maestro looking godlike, goes to considerable lengths to avoid relaying a theatre experience. No curtains, no applause.

Purists objected to Act II being inflated with a ballet (led by Mariemma, with music filched from *L'Arlésienne*) which made Lilias Pastia's tavern a strictly upmarket joint.

But this was an upmarket staging, again with three great singers: Jon Vickers as José, Mirella Freni as Micaela and Grace Bumbry, whose Carmen outvamped them all. Justino Diaz's Escamillo, dressed as a Presley lookalike, was the weak link.

Karajan's own contribution as conductor and director was among his great Salzburg achievements, not least for Wakhevitch's shimmering seashore, where the smugglers rest in Act III. Bizet might have asked for mountains, but no matter.

□ **BRITTEN**
Death in Venice
English Chamber Orch/ Bedford
The Great Opera Collection PAL 079 213-3
HIGHLY impressionistic version of Britten's last opera by Tony Palmer, made in 1981 and titled *The Dream of Gustav von Aschenbach*. During the first act, Palmer seems more interested in images of Venice, mainly in soft focus, than in Aschenbach's growing obsession. But the film gets going in Act II when the dream becomes a nightmare.

Robert Gard plays in the Peter Pears style as a fastidious intellectual, but his voice lacks variety and seems spindly after the more resilient Ashenbachs of recent years. John Shirley-Quirk and James Bowman remain from the original Aldeburgh cast, and no one is more expert at conducting this opera than Steuart Bedford.

JOHN HIGGINS

هكذا من الأصل

A trip around the world to discover just what you can buy for £400,000



Cape Town: in suburban Claremont, £400,000 would secure an opulent detached house, with four or five bedrooms, servants' quarters, tennis court and swimming pool

Location really is everything

In London, £400,000 would buy a four-bedroom terrace house in Wandsworth SW18, or a two-bedroom flat in Mayfair, W1. It would also pay for a six-bedroom Georgian house in the centre of Edinburgh or a Regency villa with enough land to graze a few horses on the outskirts of Dublin.

Trading city locations with £400,000 to spend becomes even more diverting if you take your pick of properties worldwide.

In Cape Town, you could buy an opulent detached house, with four or five bedrooms, servants' quarters, tennis court and swimming pool, in suburban Claremont or Bishopscourt, 15 minutes' drive from the city centre. Most homes in this price range have security systems, designer kitchens and garaging for at least four cars.

The same sort of money would buy a virtual mansion in Johannesburg, with at least seven bedrooms and extensive gardens, in a prime residential district close to the centre. Security may be a problem though, which explains why many owners of large houses are selling up and moving into newly built cluster villas, with armed 24-hour security.

In Singapore's prestigious 9th district, around Orchard Road and River Valley, you would be hard put to afford a bedsit. About £400,000 would produce a 99-year lease on a one-bedroom tower block flat in a less salubrious part of the city, such as International Plaza or People's Park.

You get more for your money in Sydney, with options of a three to four-bedroom detached house in Lower North Shore or Eastern Suburbs, about ten minutes' drive from the centre; or a two-bedroom apartment on the waterfront.

Tokyo has seen some dramatic price reductions in recent years — however, £400,000 would produce little more than a broom-cupboard in Hiro-o, Tokyo's equivalent of Knightsbridge. You would be able to afford a 45sq m one-bedroom condominium in Harajuku or Azabu, in the central business district. Or, you might manage a three-bedroom condo on the outskirts.

Property in Hong Kong is expensive. It would be hard to find anything for £400,000 in prime locations such as the Peak, the central business district or Mid-Levels, but you would be able to get a 50-year lease on a three-bedroom apartment in Tai Koo Shing, on the less popular east side of Hong Kong Island.

In New York's Manhattan, exchange £400,000 for a stylish two-bedroom flat on the 26th floor of a skyscraper overlooking Central Park and the Dakota Building of John Lennon fame. In San Francisco, your budget would extend to a three-storey, three-bedroom painted timber and wood detached house in Pacific Heights, with a two-car garage.

Property prices are rising fast in Bombay, but £400,000 would still provide for a top-notch two to three-bedroom flat in a modern block in the south of the city, overlooking the Arabian Sea. Or, a three to four-bedroom flat in Bandra, Bombay's equivalent of Beverly Hills. There is one snag: having invested your money in India, you cannot take it out again on resale.

In European capitals, there is a wide range of property available for £400,000. In Brussels, one of the cheaper cities, it would buy a 200sq m penthouse in a prime area, such as Uccle or Ixelles, or a detached four-bedroom house in Waterloo, a green-belt area south of the city.

In the centre of Munich, £400,000 would barely cover a two-bedroom flat in a concrete, purpose-built block. The same sort of money would buy four period buildings in what was East Berlin, but obtaining clear title to the property could be difficult.

Prices have fallen in central Paris, where an apartment in an 18th-century building, with three bedrooms and two reception rooms, in the fashionable 8th *arrondissement*, just off the Champs-Elysées, can be yours for £400,000. A similar sum would acquire a turreted 19th-century château in ten acres of parkland, an hour's drive north of the city.

The property market in Madrid is starting to pick up. But for £400,000 you can still buy a 180sq m balconied flat with up to four bedrooms, overlooking communal gardens and a swimming pool, in the prestigious Salamanca district.

In Milan, where the property market is still in the doldrums, you would be able to afford a three-bedroom, two-bathroom apartment in an elegant, turn-of-the-century building in the best part of the city. Outside the centre, the same amount would buy a 200sq m apartment in Fiera, with a designer kitchen and marble floors.

You get more for your money in Stockholm. A four-bedroom, two-bathroom apartment in a modern building in Ostermalm, in the heart of the city, is within your price range. Or, buy a detached five-bedroom house with a large garden in Lidingö, about 15 minutes' drive from the centre.

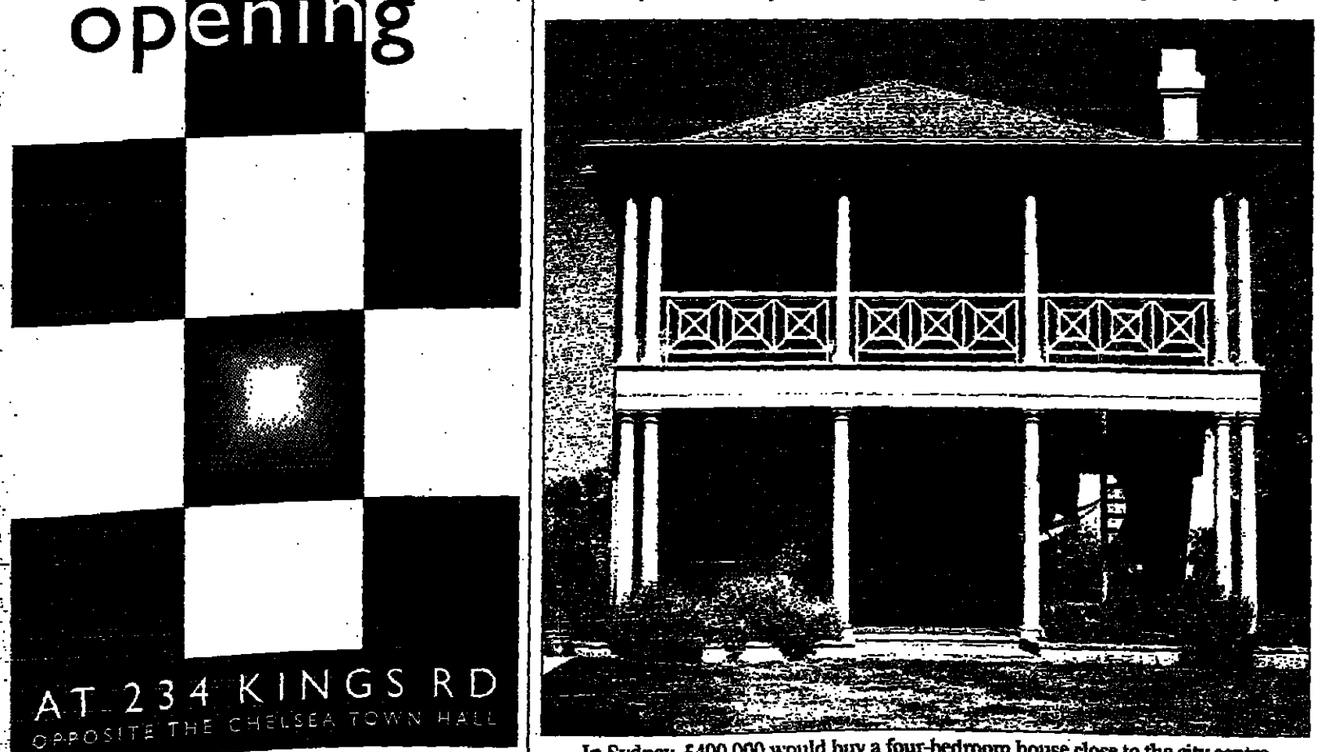
The star buys for 1997 are to be found in Prague, where £400,000 would secure a whole baroque building in the old quarter, with at least eight flats and lots of original features, and pay to restore it. You could build a palatial home on the outskirts for the same sort of money. Don't hang about though, property speculators are moving into the Czech Republic and prices are rising fast.



Milan: buy a three-bedroom flat in a turn-of-the-century building such as this

CHERYL TAYLOR

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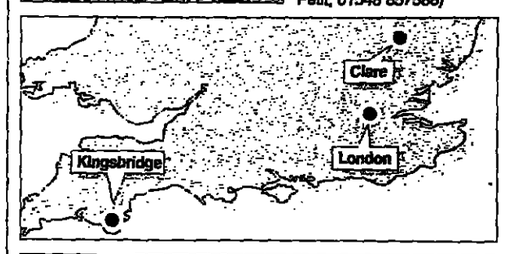
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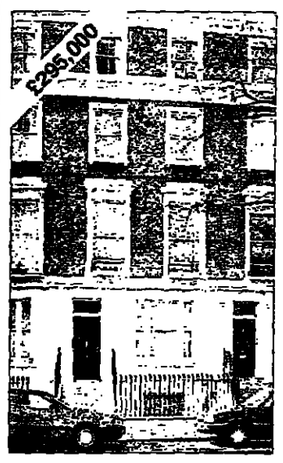


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Interior designers immaculate modern townhouse overlooking the common (west side). Integral garage (with pp). o/s pk. Charming master bed/rm. with ens/bathrm. 3 further beds, fam/bath, sep. Shwr. Bright recep. Danish kd. dine/rm. c/form Pretty 35' private west facing garden. Direct access to shared garden & tennis court.
£215,000 F/H
Tel. 0181 8779 955

BATTERSEA PARK
Albert Bridge Road, 15 mins walk to Kings Road. Lovely 3rd Floor Victorian mansion flat. Drawing room with balcony facing park. 10'x 9 Marble tiled bathroom, 2 beds. Share of freehold.
£159,950.
Tel: 0181 296 1270 Wk or 0171 585 0654 Hm

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Surbiton Riverside
Beautiful ground floor mansion flat, 22 ft lounge, 2 dble bedrooms, Waterloo 15 mins. 76 yr lease. FHLD available
£95,000 for quick sale
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CITY Borders/Tower Hill. 2 bed 2 Bth appt. 24 hr p/ter. £140K 0171-480 6815

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REPOSSESSIONS
The 65 page London Repossession List has 2000 flats/houses for sale by mortgagees in London/Home counties each month. Not on the open list? only subscription £65. The London Repossession List 1199 Finchley Rd, NW11 0AA
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BARBICAN Spectacular views from 31st floor. 3 bed flat with modern kitchen and 24 hour porter. £230,000. Frank Harris & Co. 0171 600 7000

BARBICAN For comprehensive list of flats for sale in City and Barbican contact Frank Harris & Co 0171 600 7000.

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BLACKFRIARS EC4. Period dev 1/2 bed apts approx 700 sq ft each from £140,000 Hamilton Brooks 0171 638 2153

CLERKENWELL. A 2 bedroom 4th floor flat with wood floors refurbished 1993. Day porter. £126,000. Frank Harris & Co. 0171 600 7000.

PADDINGTON ST W1 Studio flt small purpose built blk £60,000 Sandfords 0171 723 9988

UPPER WIMPOLE STREET, W1. Large 2 bedroom flat. 2 recep. rooms, lots of cupboard space. large terrace and separate entrance. £1000 pcm. Tel 0171 221 9471 after 7 00p.m.

WC1. 2 bed port. man blk, 4th flr. new kit/bath, lift. £139,960 Banbury & Bell 0171 833 4466

WC1 Studio (19'x 14'6") sep kit. wood firs lift e/phone. £69,500 Banbury & Bell 0171 833 4466

W.1. OPPPORTUNITY
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Or rental £725 pcm
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Penthouse. 2 bedrooms. Balcony overlooking Hyde Park. Quality f/furnished. Jacuzzi, bath. shower. bedr. toilet. 2nd sep wc. Gold plated fittings. c/h. Dble glazing. Video entry phone. 2 Blitz Porter. Opposite underground station and shops. Owner going abroad. 71 years lease further 90 years extension avail. £235,000 No agents
0171 727 7173

IFIELD ROAD SW10
A very light & spacious maisonette with roof terrace & outstanding S/W view. 2 bedrms, bathroom, elegant living Rm, kitchen/breakfast Rm, G.C.H. 112 yr lease.
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Telephone 0171 370 7401

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BAMPTON. Oxford 18 miles, Witney 7 miles. Burford 7 miles. Didcot station 19 miles (BR to Paddington 45 mins). A charming Cotswold village house set within attractive mature high stone walled gardens. Hall. cloak room. dining room. drawing room. kitchen. laundry room. sit rm. 5 beds. 2 baths. Store rooms. Dble garage and carport. £198,500. Butler Sherborn. Tel (01993) 822325

SOMERSET & AVON

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17 C. Grade II house with interesting arch. details. Sth views in village conservation area. Bath 9 mls, Bristol 13 mls, Chippenham 9 mls. M4/J18 5 mls. Downstairs: porch. hall. lge drawing rm. with working shutters. dining rm with French window to gdn. kit with gas Aga & Royal Doulton sink. lobby. sep WC & shwr. Upstairs: landing. 4 dbl bedrms. bathrm & bathrm. DH glazing. Computerised gas CH. Cottage with solid fuel/wood burning stove. garaging for 2 cars & stable. all with electricity. set around a verdant walled gdn with fruit trees.
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01236 891335

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RENTALS

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CHELSEA Spacious mod 3 bed fmly hse. gdn. 2 park. U/F No agents £795pw. 0585 477999

CHELSEA, SW3. Lux 2 bed Duplex in excl cond £400pw 0171 431 1310/0956 973469

CHELSEA lge lux 1 dbl bed. patio. river. parking. w/m. £210 pw. 0181 540 5855 T

DOCKLANDS Lge 2 dble bed w/hse conv wd flrs. pkg. £220pw 0171 247 2233

FITZROVIA W1 Close to Goodge St Tube. Furn 3rd flr flat. lge sit/rm. 1 dble. 1 single bedrm. K & B. £290 pw. 1 yr lt 0171 794 1060 / 0171 436 2997

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HAMPSTEAD, NW3. Ambassdr. dorfel det hse by Heath. 5 bed. 3 bath. 4 rec lux decs £1,200pw 0171 431 1310/0956 973469

HARRODS sr. Lux 2 bed hse on 4 flrs. newly refurb. £625pw. 0171 226 2580 (6-8PM only)

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HYDE PARK. Mews hse with gge. 3 bed 2 bath £425pw. Exec Homes 0171 724 9919

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MAIDA VALE W9 Lge 3 bedrm. 2 bath/3 WC flat near buses & shops £285 pw. 0585 841 726.

NOTTINGHILL W11 £700 pw Pretty 3 bed 2 bath period hse c/s station in Notts. Hill Immac cond furn. patio 0171 727 3227

NOTTING HILL. Luxury furnished fl in portered blk 3 dble beds 2 baths recep kit d/w w/d garage £435pw 0171 229 8444

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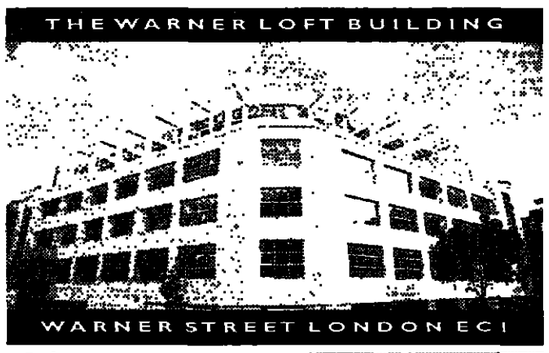
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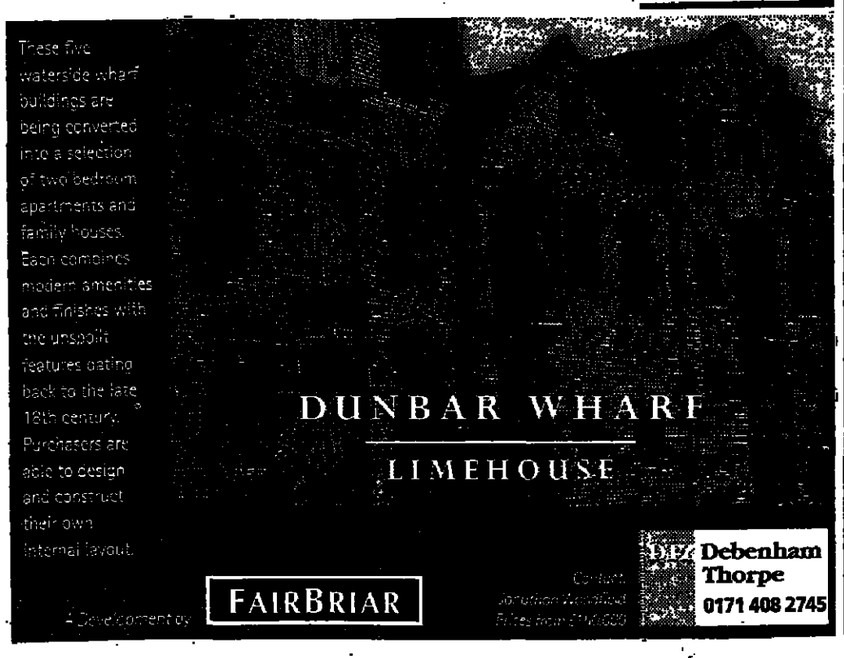
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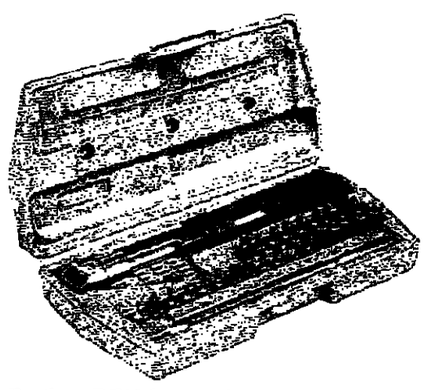
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The inspirationally-challenged have a wide choice of toys for the boys this year: socks are simply not acceptable

Hot-wiring the gift route to Christmas

For adults, Christmas toys generally mean gadgets, so I asked gizmomanes what they would really like Santa to deliver this year.

Several music lovers dreamed of Bang & Olofson's Beo-Sound system. As well as its cool contemporary design and the state-of-the-art technology, you can listen to, and control, music in every room from one remote-control source. Not cheap, but you will need only one stereo, and you can start small and add over the years. For instance, get a Beo-Sound Ouverture (£1,150) combined CD player, tape recorder and radio, add three BeoLab 2,000 double speakers (£535 each) plus installation costs (from about £300 per room) for music in sitting-room, kitchen and bedroom, all for under £3,000. Television and video can be added too.



For those DIY jobs, a ratchet-action screwdriver set, £14.95 from the Science Museum Catalogue

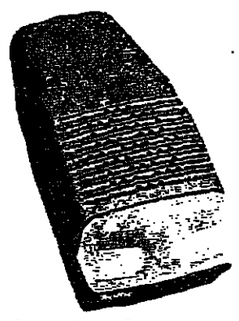
On a less exalted level, I tested the new Philips Portable Micro System CD player (£159.99), trying everything from Purcel to Sinatra, at volumes between whispery and party-party, and was delighted. With detachable speakers, 40 watts output power, programmable CD, FM/LW tuner, a single cassette deck and remote control. Perfect for the kitchen or study, as well as a moveable music feast. If I don't get one for Christmas, heads will roll.

Drivers will be beguiled by the inpressive Philips Routefinder (£199.99), which will produce the best route from A to B and estimate journey length, petrol consumption and cost. Its 38,000 destinations are stored on an AA data card, and accurately told us the best route from Fulham Broadway in central London to the Gloucestershire village of Minchinhampton, and thence to Clifton in Bristol. Directions are clear and detailed, and you can choose from several route options including one avoiding motorways. The Routefinder is hand-held — great for the navigator but not for the driver — dashboard mounts will soon be available.

We also tested the newly-released Trafficmate (£49.99), a battery-operated voice system which sits on the dashboard, collects information from 2,400 sensors on motorway bridges around the country and relays it back. Spoken messages are delivered on traffic flow and warnings are given about delays to within ten miles or two motorway junctions of your postion, whichever is the greater. You can silence it and a flashing red light will alert you to an important message. Its predictions proved accurate on a nightmare journey on the M4 and M5. At less than £50, it's also an irresistible gizmo.

An unqualified success was the Timex Data Link Watch (£120), requested by a control-freak computer-whizz. It transfers information from a PC running Microsoft (R) Windows (TM) to your wrist — appointments, telephone numbers, dates, lists — up to 70 entries in a few seconds. Other organisers will be binned by Boxing Day.

A couple of stocking filler gadgets were on the list as well — a good mini portable reading light and a fool-proof screwdriver. We turned to the Science Museum Catalogue and tested the Flexilight (£5.95), which is just four-and-three-quarter inches long, and can be used as a simple torch, or, with the flexible neck standing up from its body, as a clip-on reading light or a tiny desk-top angle-poise. Small enough for a handbag or suit pocket, it is excellent value.



Steer clear of motorway jams with the Trafficmate, £49

Another good stocking filler is the ratchet-action screwdriver (£14.95) from the same catalogue, with a 20-piece screwdriver/allen key set and a seven-piece socket set. The screwdriver bits fit in to the handle at right angles, making it easier to use than a conventional straight screwdriver, so even the most inept will improve their DIY.

The ultimate gadget is the Apple Newton 120 Message Pad (£424 plus VAT, including Newton Back-Utility and cables for Macintosh and Windows PCs) launched on November 8. It records handwritten notes either in script or transferred to print and can be connected to a Windows or Macintosh computer: it has an optional keyboard and can communicate by fax, messaging or beaming; or surf the net with its built-in eWord software: a portable office. I'm sure even Father Christmas could use one.

STEPHANIE LEWIS

Where to buy

Apple Newton: Newton Customer Hotline 0181-730 2048.

Bang & Olofson: freephone 0321 300 313 for stockists.

Philips: Portable Micro System, 0181 665 6350 for stockists.

Routemaster: dial 100 and ask for Freephone Routefinder.

Science Museum Catalogue: 01793 480200.

Timex (UKTime): 0171-630 8180 for stockists.

Trafficmate: 01582 745555 (sales); 01908 249808 (Trafficmate information).



Force computer buffs to lighten up with Monty Python's Complete Waste of Time (7th Level; Mac & Win PC CD-Rom; £39.99), a celebration of irrelevance

Dear Software Santa ...

Have yourself a multimedia Christmas, make the Yuletide games. Become a little helper of the Software Santa this year with something from our pick of the best.

Buying software for others need not be a nightmare; the secret is getting the right format. Note the make and model of the relevant games console or home computer and check assertively with the retailer that your choice is compatible. Also ensure that your purchases can be exchanged.

When you know someone well then instinct invariably leads you in the right direction. But if you're completely lost, and tempted to return to buying pairs of socks, try one of these.

Top of the list is Brøderbund's mesmerising fun factory, the **Kids Pix Studio**. Though it's aimed at three to 12-year-olds, it's so intoxicating that anyone will enjoy it. One feature allows you to transform a snap of, say, your auntie, into a work of animating art: with dancing pink elephants at her feet and hovering hummingbirds around her head.

Action games abound but as Christmas is a caring, sharing time, try for something where everyone can join in. **Micro Machines 96** is a chaotic overhead racing game and a classic for entire households. Try not to laugh as your tiny racer runs out of control on the rim of the bathtub.

Stepping up a gear, **Destruction Derby** is an innovative spin on the genre, with enviable graphics and playability. Here the object isn't so much winning as plain survival as your car starts falling apart around you. In duel mode, two skidding jalopies smash one another to smithereens and you can almost smell the burning rubber.

Actua Soccer raises the standard of football fantasy by adding commentator Barry Davies's cliché-ed remarks to the action. Play badly, and he complains that your team "has done nothing to endear themselves to the crowd today".

Also owing everything to audio quality, **Worms** is a delightful two-player game. The notion of worm teams doing violent battle may appear brutal, but soon you'll be full of remorse as your outspoken victims angrily lob back strings of abuse. More serious warmongering doesn't currently come much slicker than in **Command & Conquer** as two superpowers lock horns for the ultimate conflict.

This year's blockbuster from id Software, whose previous hits include Doom, is **Hexen**. Keeping to the same formula, it's a first-person perspective runaround which means you are in a complete virtual world racing around corridors and courtyards. Hexen stretches imagination and terror to the limits.

Something a little more leisurely is a railroad-cum-business sim called **1830 — Railroads and Robber Barons**. Run a successful railroad empire while fending off take-over bids from rival players. Play is turn-based, requires tact and has a defined goal: the winner is the player worth most when the game engine runs out of steam.

As Britain is now a National Lottery land of gamblers, any of the related budget lottery titles are worth a flutter. **Just Lotto** analyses and updates previous results, assists with selecting numbers and, most usefully, tells you when you've won.

For the person who takes their home computing too seriously, force them to lighten up with **Monty Python's Complete Waste of Time**. Thanks in no small measure to animator Terry Gilliam, this is a celebration of irrelevance. Turn your word processor into a typewriter with great keyboard sounds, including the carriage return bell, and hear messages when you close Windows applications, such as: "Well, we'd better do it again — there's obviously been a bit of a muddle."

Finally, if I were a rich man I would buy night-clubbing friends a Sony PlayStation just for one tiny programme included on the free demo disk, called **V-CD**. This allows you to run audio CDs in the PlayStation and play around with vivid graphics generated in time with the music. Though slight it's heavenly, but as there are no plans to release a full version there is no other way to get a copy.

Titles specifically on a Christmas theme must have a remarkably brief shelf life. Of those around, the most enchanting is an interactive children's book written by Brian Wildsmith and read by Martin Jarvis. A **Christmas Story** covers traditional nativity ground with fine illustrations and a gentle atmosphere.

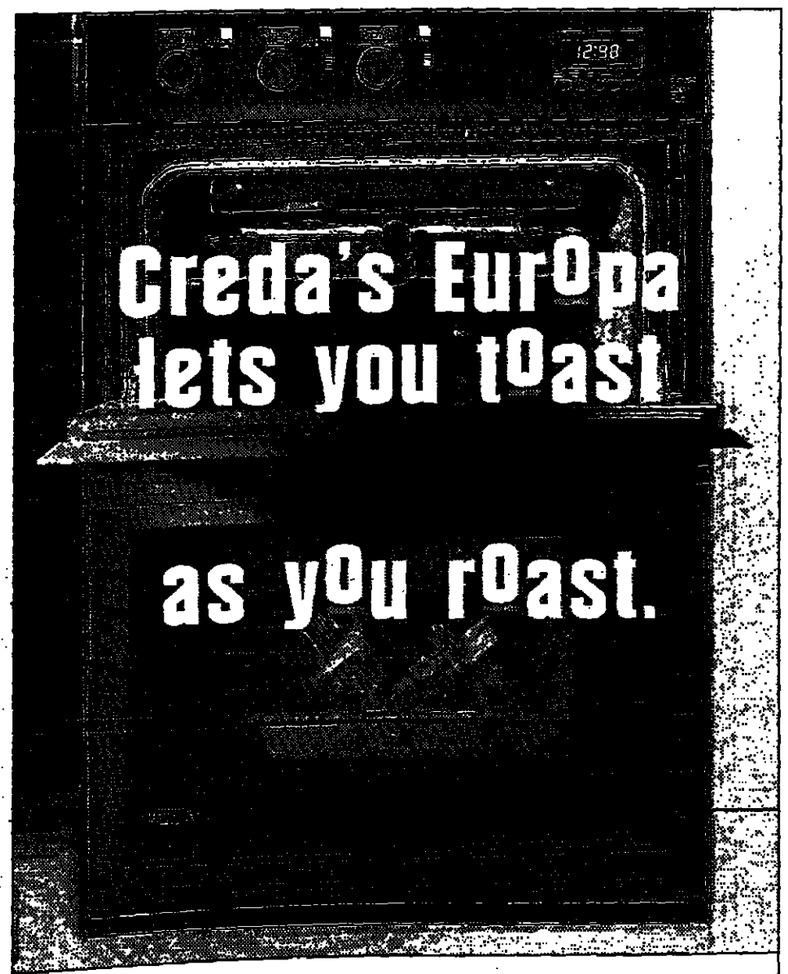
A must for office wags is **Christmas for Windows**, which sprinkles a little festive glitter into the PC. Switch your Windows operating system to seasonal colours of red and green and play around with a host of trivial time-wasters.

TIM WAPSHOTT

Computer games, page 23

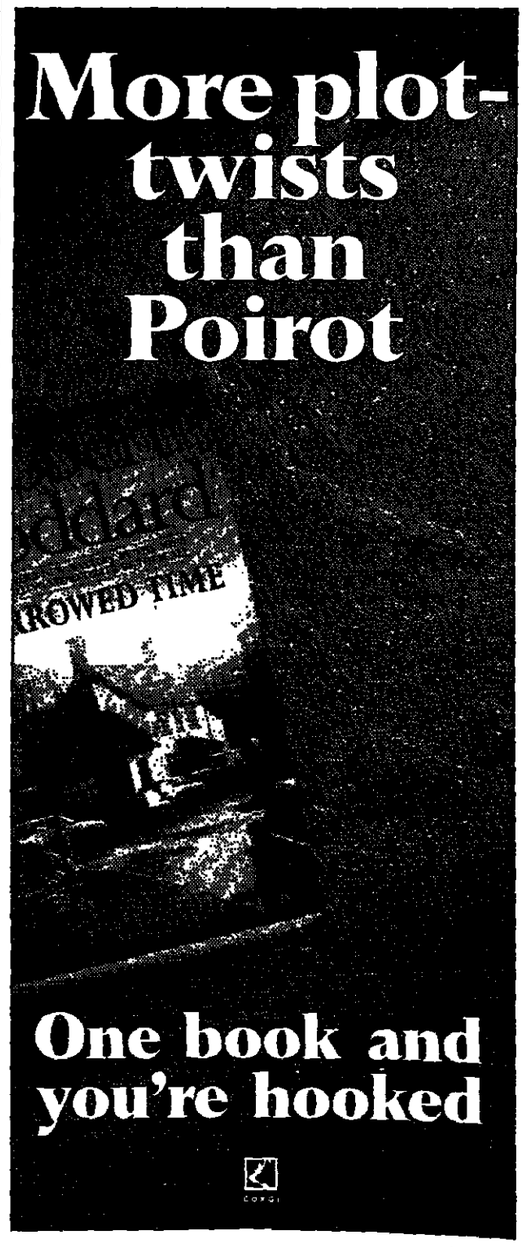
Games file

Kids Pix Studio (Brøderbund): Mac & Win PC CD-Rom: £29.99). **Micro Machines 96** (Codemasters: Sega Mega Drive: £44.99). **Destruction Derby** (Sony Interactive: PlayStation, PC-CD-Rom: £44.95). **Actua Soccer** (Gremlin: PC CD-Rom: £44.99 — also PlayStation imminently). **Worms** (Team 17/Ocean: PC floppy & CD-Rom, Amiga formats — others due: £29.99-£34.99). **Command & Conquer** (Virgin/Westwood Studios: PC CD-Rom: £44.99). **Hexen** (id Software/GT Interactive: PC floppy & CD-Rom: £44.99). **1830 — Railroads and Robber Barons** (Avalon Hill/US Gold: PC CD-Rom: £39.99). **Just Lotto** (COSMI & Company: Win PC floppy: £14.99). **Monty Python's Complete Waste of Time** (7th Level: Mac & Win PC CD-Rom: £39.99). V—CD (free demo version only with Sony PlayStation: £299). **A Christmas Story** (Oxford University Press: Win PC CD-Rom: £29.99). **Christmas for Windows** (US Dreams: PC floppy & CD-Rom: £14.99).





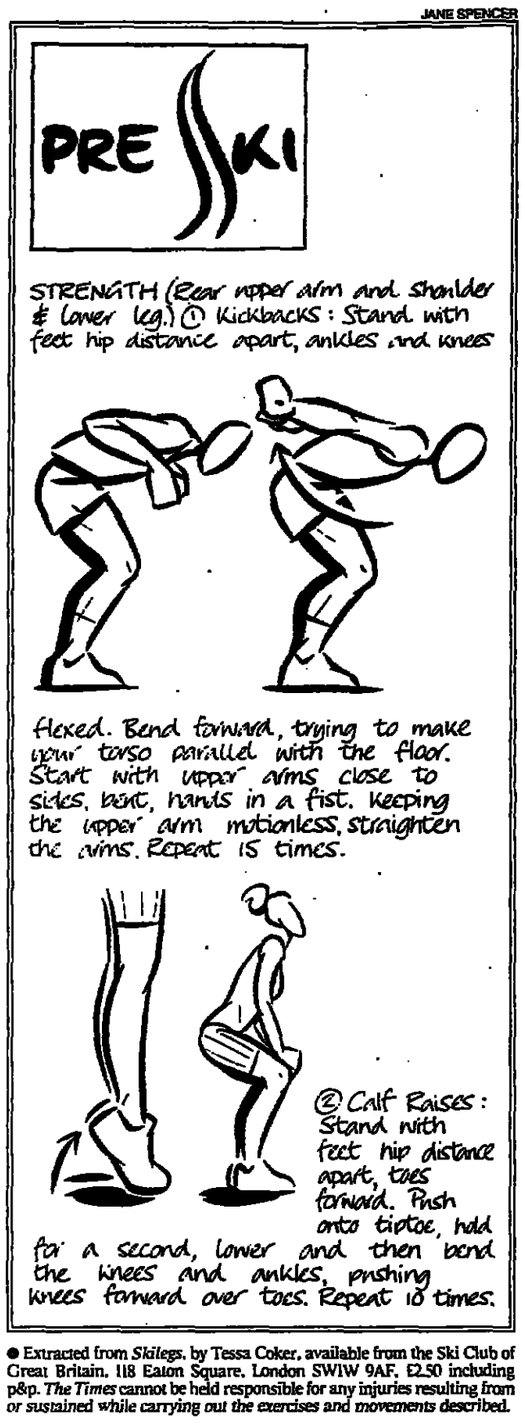




SKIING: **Graham Duffill** visits a child-friendly resort where parents need not miss out on the action

All skiers great and small

JANE SPENCER



● Extracted from *Skilegs*, by Tessa Coker, available from the Ski Club of Great Britain, 118 Eaton Square, London SW1W 9AF, £2.50 including p&p. *The Times* cannot be held responsible for any injuries resulting from or sustained while carrying out the exercises and movements described.

The simple conical shape of some of America's ski resorts makes them better family destinations than many parts of Europe. While European resorts range across mountain peaks, connected by an intricate series of lifts that makes meeting up a masterpiece of timing and planning, many US resorts are built around only half a dozen lifts.

This is ideal for families, where differences in age and ability mean members want to ski apart and meet later, but such a simple layout is often at the expense of better skiers who find the resorts undemanding.

Crested Butte (pronounced like "newt" and meaning a mountain that rises out of a plain) provides such a variety of skiing that it is ideal for families. At the same time it offers such steep skiing that it hosts the annual American ski extreme championships.

The mountain is shaped like the crest of a wave, and the skiing is mainly down its front face, steep at the top and gentle at the bottom. But off both sides, there is a huge amount of steep skiing: Crested Butte's Extreme Limits area contains more Double Black Diamond, ie, "very black", runs than any other Colorado resort.

While there are no pistes, the extreme areas are patrolled and is opened only when safe from avalanche. It allows upper intermediates to get into the sort of rugged, adventurous skiing that in Europe they would call off-piste and would be accessible only to those prepared to pay for a guide.

The Extreme Limits area makes the difference between Crested Butte being just another Colorado resort and being one of the world's greats, where the best skiers will find a challenge.

In keeping with Colorado tradition, the runs in the Limits have acquired their own names: Dead Bob's Chute, Bodybag Glades, Million Dollar Highway, Sock It To Me. You even get a pretty good idea where to avoid, with Disgusting Trees, Cesspool and Good Luck Glades.

Of the 82 marked trails, 58 per cent are graded difficult, 13 per cent green or blue, 29 per cent the equivalent of European reds. The beauty of the mountain's geography is that it can all be served by 12 lifts.

Wide slopes sweep down to the resort so gently that even the most timid beginner would find no edge over which they could imagine they might accidentally plunge. It is so easy that each week, following an evening in one of the mountain huts, skiers of all abilities ski in the dark by torchlight.

Crested Butte's ski school has many programmes for children. One of the most innovative is tag-along lessons, in which the parent or parents go along with the child and ski instructor and are actively involved in the teaching process, so that once the lesson is over they know how to help their child and which exercises to continue with.

The dilemma for the visitor is whether to stay downtown, where the main street looks like something from a Hollywood film, or 20 minutes up the hill in the Grand Butte hotel, which boasts a small shopping mall, bars and restaurants and is undoubtedly the most convenient location for families.

The Grand Butte is enormous, essential for baby-sitting parents who do not want to go stir-crazy in the evenings. The neighbouring Mountain Lair is more like a motel in style, with no restaurants or bars, but guests can use the facilities of the Grand Butte.

The village itself is linked by a free shuttle bus that runs every ten minutes. It is a one-street town — Elk Avenue, lit by Victorian-style lamps and lined with small boutiques with wooden fronts painted in different colours. They even put the town hall on rollers and moved it back three feet to bring it into line with the rest of the street.

Away from Crested Butte there are two expensive but serious options. Irwin Lodge, a luxurious mountain hut 12 miles into the wilderness above Crested Butte and accessible in winter by snowmobile only, offers extensive snowcat skiing. This poor man's version of heliskiing has you sitting in the back of a converted piste-basher being driven up steep slopes to huge areas of untracked snow. With 24 rooms and an 8,000 sq ft lobby, Irwin is no igloo, more a hotel in the middle of nowhere.

The other option is to have a two-centre holiday and fly to Aspen for a few days. The two resorts are effectively neighbours — a 20-minute small plane hop which in summer is just three hours on horseback over the Elk mountain range.

The planes can carry from two to eight passengers and, when full, cost $100 (about £66) or less per person each way. Somehow, whenever I am in Crested Butte and have travelled so far, the extra expense seems minimal. You could also hire a car: the drive takes three to four hours.

GRAFTON MARSHALL SMITH



Elk Avenue, Crested Butte's attractive main street, is lined with brightly painted boutiques

Fact file

- The author was a guest of Crested Butte Mountain Resort and of American Airlines.
- Under-12s stay free in their parents' room in the Grand Butte. Some tour operators' prices in January, including flights: Ski Independence (0131 557 3555): Grand Butte £699 for two adults sharing, £629 in the Mountain Lair, children £249; Ski the American Dream (0181-470 1181): Grand Butte £719, children £279; Ski Equipe (0161 440 0010): £695, children from £249.
- Customers booking with any of the above operators receive two lift passes for the price of one. Daily rate, $43 (about £28).
- The nursery takes children from newborn $38 (£25) half-day; $48 (£32) whole. Ski school, for four to 17-year-olds, costs $59-$70 (£39-£46) a day depending on age. Tag-along classes $75 (£50) for one child an hour, $25 (£16) each additional child.
- American Airlines flights connect to Gunnison Airport, half an hour's drive from Crested Butte. Adult fares from £492 plus taxes; children from two to 11 £369 plus taxes.
- Crested Butte's information and reservation number is 0800 894 085.

COLLECT 30 TOKENS FOR A CHANCE TO WIN £20,000 CASH FOR AN 80-DAY HOLIDAY OF A LIFETIME — PLUS SAVE 10% ON ALL HOLIDAYS FEATURED

Win a holiday to the USA

Today and every day until the end of December, *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* are offering readers the exclusive chance to win one of 80 holidays for two worth more than £150,000 in total. You can also get ten per cent off all the holidays featured in our Around the World adventure.

Plus there is an opportunity to win £20,000 cash for an 80-day holiday of a lifetime.

Our series of 80 holidays around the world began in Europe, continued to South America with exciting tours of *Belize, Chile, Argentina,* Peru and Brazil; then to Pakistan, the jungles of India, Sri Lanka and Nepal. There were luxurious holidays to seven paradise resorts in the Caribbean and individually tailored safaris to Africa. There were trips to Thailand, Malaysia and Hong Kong and last week's adventures saw readers win fascinating holidays to the historically rich region of Arabia, including Yemen, Oman, Syria, Lebanon and Petra.

Today we begin a week of holidays to the United States of America, beginning with a fly-drive tour of New England. After that there are holidays to California, Las Vegas, Chicago, New York and Anaheim, home to Disneyland with its new Indiana Jones Adventure.

The holidays are organised by United Vacations who offer a comprehensive range of vacations to the States, including city breaks, multi-centre destinations, cruises or speciality tours.

HOW TO WIN £20,000

Collect 30 of the 80 tokens which will appear every day in *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* until December 28, for the chance to win £20,000 cash to spend on an 80-day holiday of a lifetime.

Attach your 30 differently numbered tokens to the completed entry form below and you will be entered into our prize draw. *Readers may collect 60 tokens for* two chances of winning. Entries must be received by Jan 12, 1996.

Previously published tokens may be obtained free of charge, until December 13, by sending a sae to:

The Times/Sunday Times Holiday of a Lifetime Competition, Token Request, PO Box 480, London E1 9DN.

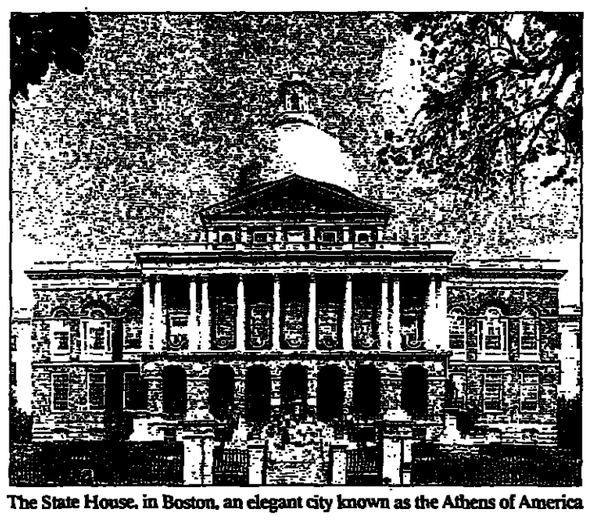
A maximum of four tokens can be supplied per application.

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Readers can take advantage of an exclusive ten per cent discount on every holiday featured during our *80-day Around the World competition.* Many of them include five-star accommodation, superb meals, excursions led by qualified guides, individually tailored safaris and sightseeing.

To get a brochure for today's holiday and those featured in previous weeks, please write to: *The Times* Brochure Service, PO Box 9, Dunoon, Argyll, PA23 8QQ.

Bookings should be made through Cox & Kings before February 28, 1996. All other terms and conditions relating to these holiday competitions and offers are contained in the brochures.



The State House, in Boston, an elegant city known as the Athens of America

HOLIDAY PRIZE WINNERS: The winner of our holiday to Bangkok and Pattaya, Thailand, is Mrs S Tiberry of Cambridge; the winner of our holiday to Langkawi, Malaysia is Mr J Lively, of Halton, Lancaster; the winner of our holiday to Yemen is Brother Nicholas of Buckfastleigh, Devon; the winner of our holiday to Oman is Mr T Alder of Alresford, Hampshire; and the winner of our holiday to the Lebanon is Mr G Jones of Llanrwst, Gwynedd.

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AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS PRIZE DRAW ENTRY FORM

I enclose 30 tokens from *The Times/Sunday Times* and wish to enter the prize draw. Send to: Around The World Prize Draw, PO Box 6885, London E2 8SR. Closing date Friday January 12, 1996

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms ..... First Name .....

Surname .....

Address .....

..... Postcode .....

It would help us if you answered these four questions:

1. Which of the following age groups do you fall into? (Please tick box)
1) 15-24 ☐ 2) 25-34 ☐ 3) 35-44 ☐
4) 45-54 ☐ 5) 55-64 ☐ 6) 65+ ☐

2. Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (4-5 copies) during the week?

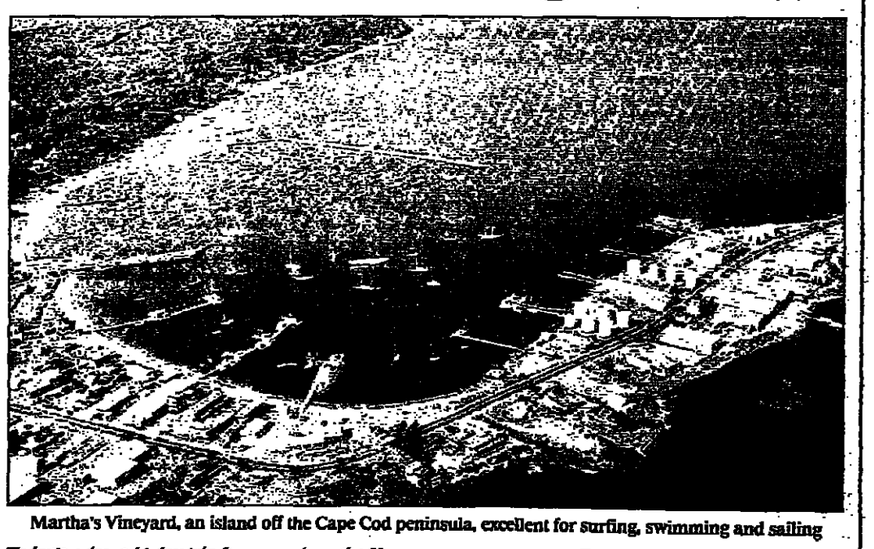
3. Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy occasionally (3 copies or less) during the week?

4. Which national Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (2-4 copies a month)?

Times Newspapers and its marketing partners would like to inform you of future products and offers. If you would prefer not to receive such information, please tick here. ☐

IN THE SUNDAY TIMES TOMORROW: WIN A FLY-DRIVE TRIP TO CALIFORNIA

14-day fly-drive trip to New England



Martha's Vineyard, an island off the Cape Cod peninsula, excellent for surfing, swimming and sailing

Today's prize, a 14-day trip for two to New England worth £1,550, takes the winner to one of the prettiest parts of America.

ITINERARY:

Days 1-2 Fly to Newark, New Jersey, with United Airlines, the parent company of this week's tour operator. Pick up your car, a small family-size saloon, for the hour-long drive to your hotel, Best Western Woodward, in Manhattan, New York. **Day 3** Drive to Newport, Rhode Island, home to the America's Cup races for 132 years. Explore 10-mile Ocean Drive, lined with elegant summer mansions. **Days 4-5** Drive to Cape Cod and take a ferry to Nantucket Island or Martha's Vineyard. Or take a whale watch cruise. **Days 6-7-8** On the way to Boston, stop in Plymouth where the Mayflower landed in 1620. **Day 9** Travel the northern shore of Massachusetts to Portland and explore Salem. **Day 10** To Mount Washington along the Kancamagus Highway, an old Indian trail. **Day 11** Explore the white mountains or lakes of New Hampshire and Maine. **Day 12** Visit Quechee Gorge, Vermont's mini Grand Canyon, and stop in Woodstock, a quaint village with a white clapboard church. **Day 13** Visit Pittsfield and Lenox, summer home of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. **Day 14** Drive back to Newark for return flight to London.

DATES OF DEPARTURE

The prize winner may travel between April 11-30, 1996. *Times readers can book a 10% discount* on all departures in 1996. The price, with our exclusive 10 per cent discount, is £697, down from £775 and includes return flights, twinshare accommodation on a room only basis, car hire and a full-tour pack with routes, hotels and sightseeing information. For more details, please call: 01369 70 77 11.

HOW TO ENTER

For your chance to win today's prize, phone your answers to the two questions below on our competition hotline: 0891 40 50 34 before midnight tonight. Calls are charged at 39p per minute cheap rate and 49p at all other times.

The winner will be selected at random from all correct entries received. Normal *Times* Newspapers competition rules apply.

THE QUESTIONS

1. For how many years has Newport hosted the America's Cup?

2. When did the Mayflower land in Plymouth?

WEEKEND BREAKS: How to spot the real St Petersburg; plus the literary legacy of a hotel in Torcello

Cradle of the revolution comes of age

The women line up on the embankment, perhaps 20 of them, their backs to the river, gazing intently at the large crumbling building across the busy highway. They do not look very poor: two or three are dressed expensively, in the latest fashion. Some of the women carry binoculars: they peer through them for a while, then launch into animated sign language, aimed at some far, dark window. Others rely on the power of voice, but even their loudest shouts are often drowned out by traffic. One or two lucky ones receive a letter, dispatched by catapult and falling in the middle of the road, so that the recipient has to dodge the cars as she rushes to pick up her message. These are the women of St Petersburg communicating with their husbands, lovers and sons, held in the gloomy Kresty prison, not far from the Finland Station where, in 1917, Lenin arrived to lead the Revolution.

It's a scene repeated every evening, a moving and necessary antidote to the sumptuous experiences of the rest of the day, a tiny slice of the "real" St Petersburg which the visitor can spend many days not seeing. The lay-out of the city makes it only too easy to



Smolny cathedral

avoid the areas where the people live with their everyday preoccupations and miseries. Tourist St Petersburg is seductive and exhausting: there is no time to look behind the façades. Astonishingly, in spite of the architectural ravages and high-building policies perpetrated in every other Russian city in the postwar period, the centre of St Petersburg has remained a stunningly beautiful city of low skyline, dominated by the wide River Neva, romantically iced over in winter.

The look of St Petersburg is horizontal, the vistas expansive, the views around the Neva hardly changed from when they inspired Tchaikovsky and Pushkin, Shostakovich and Dostoevsky (at whose house-museum a schoolgirl conducted an excellent short tour in English and refused to accept a tip). It feels totally Russian, yet most of its grand buildings are European, its architects imported at a time when only the best would do for the sparkling centre of Russian culture. Less than 300 year old — new by European city comparisons — St Petersburg is redolent with history, from its extravagant elegance under the Tsars, to its role as cradle of the Revolution and its appalling suffering during the 900 days of Nazi siege.

It's a city for walking; or rather the central part is, bounded by the small River Fontanka. Most of the great museums, palaces and churches are in the area (although some splendid examples, such as Smolny cathedral, are outside it); so is the Mariinsky Theatre, home of the Kirov ballet; the concert hall, still subsidised so that the best seats cost less than a pound; and the Nevsky Prospekt, the city's broad shopping thoroughfare, now sadly starting to resemble the shopping streets of every European city.

The Winter Palace, whose storming in 1917 started the October Revolution (though more people were injured making Sergei Eisenstein's film of the event than when it happened in reality), is now the Hermitage Museum. All the superlatives are justified: more works of art than any museum in the world, but more importantly, works of extraordinarily high quality, well shown. A current exhibition of Impressionist paintings, many never seen in public before, which the Russians snatched from private German collections at the end of the war, is almost worth the trip to St Petersburg alone.

Do not be put off by the tales of violence and the mafia. The instantly recognisable — because they are so well dressed — members of the St Petersburg mafias do not interfere with the ordinary tourist, though entering the foyer of the pricey Grand Hotel Europe under their gaze is not a relaxing experience. And if you should be walking in a quiet street by a canal and see a Mercedes disgorging sharply suited men and fur-coated women into a discreetly labelled restaurant, do not say: "That looks good. Let's eat there."

MARCEL BERLINS

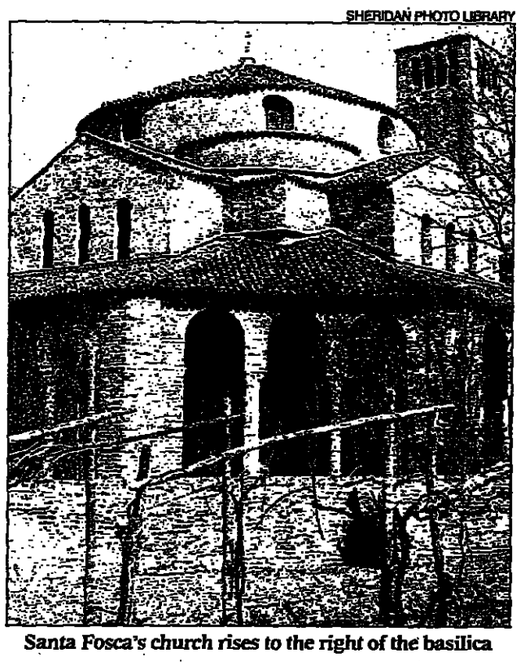
Progressive Tours (0171-262 1676) offers weekends in St Petersburg, including flights and accommodation, priced from £300 to £570.



A detail of the *Doomsday* mosaic at the Basilica of Torcello depicts the resurrection of the dead. Although small, the magnificence of the basilica is overwhelming

Venetian haven for writers

SHERIDAN PHOTO LIBRARY



Santa Fosca's church rises to the right of the basilica

What could possibly connect three such diverse writers as Ernest Hemingway, Nancy Mitford, and Winston Churchill? The theatre of war might do for two of them; so could Paris, but the answer is: Torcello.

The small island of Torcello lies across the Venetian Lagoon from the other small, but more populated, island of Burano, famous for its lacemaking and much beloved of Ezra Pound. Torcello perfectly combines the worship of God and mammon. The latter is represented by the Locanda Cipriani, first cousin of Cipriani's, the luxurious hotel in Venice proper, and of Harry's Bar (Hemingway, again). God is worshipped in the extraordinary Byzantine basilica across the grassed piazza. Small it may be, but its impact is quite as overwhelming as that of other far grander Byzantine cathedrals at Monreale or Cefalù in Sicily.

Torcello, many centuries ago, was as important as Venice. Then, it fell into disuse. After malaria struck, the great houses were left to disintegrate, and the island was abandoned to a few priests, a large number of mosquitoes, and water snakes lurking inoffensively in the side-canals. Then came Signor Cipriani, who converted a run-down bar into one of the great hotels.

To call it a hotel is faintly absurd. It is usually known for its restaurant, in the garden, with a fine view of the basilica. Eating a dish of cannelloni, followed by grilled chicken, and some *fragolini di bosco* (wild strawberries) is one of the most pleasant experiences on earth. It is not *haute cuisine*. It is simple, and perfect.

The motor launches have surged across from their landing stage near the Danieli Hotel, to arrive in time for a pre-lunch bellini, and the peace of Torcello has been shattered by innumerable tourists who have come for a rapid meal, an even more rapid tour of the basilica, and a moment devoted to buying tablecloths and napkins swirling in the breeze near Attila's stone seat. They start nervously back from the feral cats slinking among the stephanotis bushes, and flee for the launches. Even those simpler souls who have opted for a leisurely trip across the lagoon via Murano and Burano on a public *vaporetto* have tottered back down the towpath.

It is now that Torcello comes into its own. To the right of the entrance into the Locanda there is a door, which leads to a flight of stairs up to the first floor. And there is a small suite called Concordia (the Locanda does not go in for room numbers), containing a bedroom, a bathroom, two balconies (one giving on to the canal where the motor launches are moored, the other looking towards the basilica) and a small sitting room. And in the sitting-room there is a very large, handsome desk made from pale wood, rather *à la* Biedermeier. It is not one of those feeble hotel desks which contains nothing more than a few postcards and magazines advertising other hotels in the same prestigious group. This is a real desk, at which one sits down to write. It is a desk where serious books can be written, and serious thoughts pondered.

Downstairs in the Locanda, there are various photographs showing the arrival of the Prince and Princess of Wales, a very young-looking Queen Elizabeth and Duke of Edinburgh, and Italian presidents and cardinals. But it is upstairs, I am sure, that the spirit of literature still presides.

The staff of the Locanda cannot pinpoint precisely which room Hemingway stayed in when he went duck-shooting in the marshes, or where Nancy Mitford pondered love in a colder climate or the unfathomable habits of the English upper classes, or indeed where Churchill contemplated victory out of defeat, and defeat out of victory. I know, though, that it was at the pale desk in Concordia that inspiration struck. There are even two of the most comfortable, deepest armchairs into which anyone could sink after a little too much grappa or brandy, or that third or fourth dry martini (I excuse Miss Mitford from these conjectures).

Some years ago, a writer called Shirley Guiton, who worked for UNESCO in Paris, went to Torcello and converted a battered old house into something habitable and delectable. She even wrote a book about her experiences with the local builders, plumbers and decorators.

All this happened many years before Peter Mayle wrote *A Year in Provence* and became a millionaire. Her book, no longer in print, was called *No Magic Eden*, and is one of the most charming travel books ever published. She did not, of course, become a millionaire.

Her account of Torcello and living there, often in harsh weather, cut off from the outside world, is the best book about the island. But, although few enough people will have read it, not many more will know about Papa Hemingway, Nancy Mitford and Winston Churchill, sadly all at different times, staying at the Locanda Cipriani. I, too, have stayed in Concordia, and I know that this is a small piece of literary Arcadia.

CHRISTOPHER SINCLAIR-STEVENSON

Torcello: how to get there

☐ The Locanda Cipriani Hotel, Torcello (00 39 41 730150/fax: 735433). The hotel is open to guests from March 19 to November 10 and closed for meals on Tuesdays. Half-board costs 260,000 lira (about £108) per person per night. Full board costs L350,000 (about £145) per night.

☐ To get there, take the hotel motorboat from the station near Danieli Hotel. For a more scenic route, take the public vaporetto from the Fondamenta Nuove, via San Michele, Murano and Burano.

☐ Flights are available through the Thomas Cook Italian Travel Centre (0171-408 4125) or through your local travel agent. Prices for return flights to Venice from Heathrow or Gatwick vary from £228 economy to £500 business class.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from Page 23

ANTIMONY

(b) A poisonous metal. So called, according to tradition, because of its use in a famous case of mass poisoning of monks in the 15th century by an alchemist, charmingly named Basil Valentine.

HAMADRYAD

(a), (b) and (c). A delightful word that has several distinct meanings. Originally a Greek nymph living in trees. But also, a venomous Indian snake, and an Abyssinian baboon. "My dear Kathryn, positively you look like a hamadryad with that orange hair-do." When reproached for rudeness, you explain that you were using the word in its nymphal sense."

DEMOPHOBE

(c) Someone who has a morbid dread of crowds and massed humanity. The condition of most of us during the Christmas-shopping period and on the Circle Line during rush hour. From the Greek *dēmos* the people, as in *democracy* + *phobein* to fear. One of the most common of all phobias. If all the sufferers were put together in one place, they would not like it one little bit.

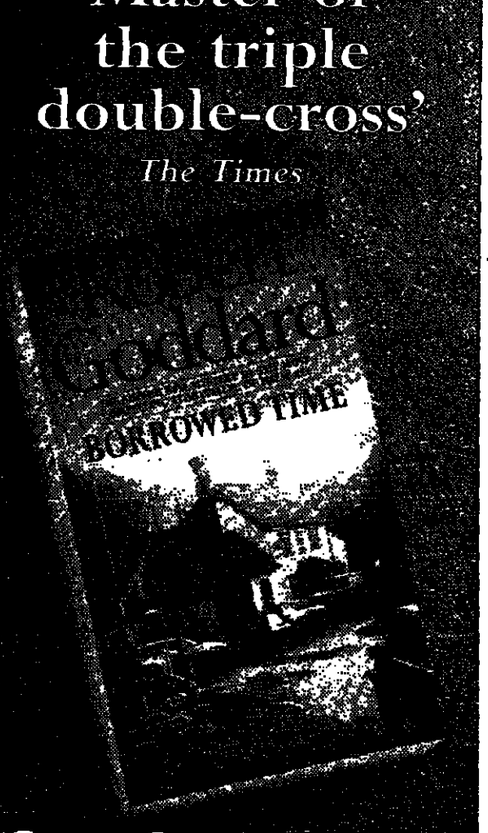
ULTRONEOUS

(c) Spontaneous, off-the-cuff, from the Latin.

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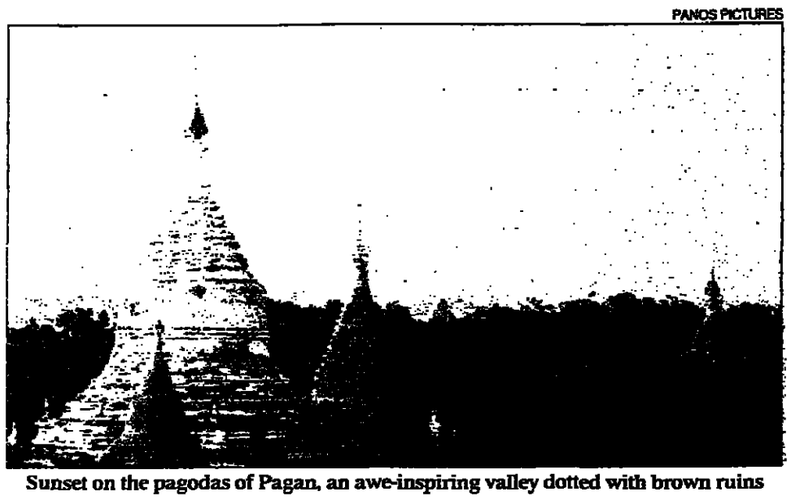
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BURMA: The people of a troubled South-East Asian nation are kind and welcoming to visitors

Charmed on the Mandalay road

PANOS PICTURES



Sunset on the pagodas of Pagan, an awe-inspiring valley dotted with brown ruins



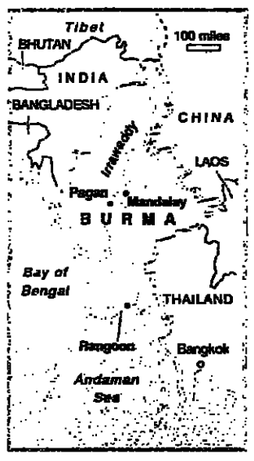
WORLD PICTURES

A Burmese actress in traditional dress performs a dance

The little boy playing on the banks of the Irrawaddy was spellbound. It was as if he had never seen a Western face before. All around, workers toiled in the fierce Burmese sun, carrying on their heads baskets of sand from barges which had come down from the border with China. There was not another Westerner to be seen. I reached for a small plastic comb, and gingerly handed it to the child. He took it, and stood there, grinning from ear to ear. Friends gathered round to examine his prize, then turned and smiled as one.

The scene, in the old quarter of Kipling's immortal Mandalay, encapsulates the great moral dilemma that is Burma. Nowhere in the world are you likely to encounter such warm, welcoming, people; touchingly innocent, genuinely pleased just to exchange a wave or a smile. Hard to believe that this is the same country where a brutal and corrupt dictatorship holds sway; a land where villagers are rounded up and put to work in chains, and where BBC World Service transmissions are jammed. By rights, it should be one of the most miserable places on Earth.

The honest answer is that it is not — at least, not as far as I could tell. I went to Burma expecting to return depressed and angered. Instead, I encountered endless warmth. Walk through the markets of Mandalay, and eyes lock on from every corner — not threateningly, but in open fascination. Ancient lorries tussle with trishaws and bicycles, and ten-year-old copies of *Time* are the best the newsstands can offer. It is a magical experience.



The time-warp begins the moment you touch down at Rangoon (Yangon) airport. The airport terminal is in predictable chaos. Babbling porters hurl suitcases onto a creaking carousel. Somnolent grasshoppers cluster on grime-encrusted glass.

New arrivals must each convert $300 (£200) into Foreign Exchange Certificates (FECs), which can be used to pay for tours, travel and accommodation. Burma has a thriving black market, and a thick wad of $1 bills will go a long way.

Emerging from the terminal into the baking sun is like surfacing in Kenya in 1969. Billboards advertise Tiger Beer, Ovaltine and 555 cigarettes. Shuddering cars jostle with gleaming Mercedes limousines. Crumbling houses line the route into Rangoon — a sweeping colonial boulevard.

Burma's crackpot ruler, the ageing Ne Win, was told by a soothsayer that he needed to move the country "more to the right". His response was to make people drive on the right instead of the left.

The first stop on the tourist route is Pagan, an hour's flight up-country. Flying in Burma is no longer a life-or-death affair, provided you use Air Mandalay, equipped with gleaming new ATR-72 turboprops, or the brand-new Yangon Airways. Both are infinitely preferable to the state-run Myanma Airways, whose vintage Fokker F27s and F28s do not instil confidence.

Pagan is awe-inspiring — an endless valley dotted with brown ruins and dazzling white spires of pagodas, framed by the vast Irrawaddy; $5 will hire a guide and pony-cart for the day. Pagodas rise from behind trees caulked with lime. Men sidle up, offering opium and marijuana. Roadside stalls sell handmade marionettes, swords, and lacquerware bowls.

Our guide took us into the local village, where we commandeered an entire longboat for a cruise on the river. We were invited into somebody's home and treated like royalty. The people expect nothing — but presents are well received. Sunglasses, pens, nail varnish and watches go down especially well. Wide-eyed children shout "Hello!", then collapse in fits of giggles. Dogs sprawl in the dust as if dead.

A glimpse of the "other" Burma came in the short drive to the airport. Farm-workers wandered along the road in groups, trimming the verges. It transpired that one of the generals was due for a visit, and the locals had been hauled in for a clean-up operation. There were no visible chains, and no troops, but one could tell something was amiss. It was whispered that chain gangs were building a railway on the other side of the river.

Mandalay is dominated by an enormous fort, protected by a broad moat, and reputedly home to 80,000 soldiers. A warning that the Tatmadaw (army) will crush any opposition is daubed near the main entrance. Passing through the portal is like entering a medieval walled city; averted eyes, and a tangible sense of fear in the air. It is an eerie place.

Far more fulfilling is the old quarter, with its dusty streets and endless sights: pots and pans, thermos flasks, baskets of locusts, salted fish, chicken legs. A trishaw, in which passengers sit back-to-back, costs about 30 cents a ride, and provides endless entertainment. Children flash "V" signs and shout: "What your country?" Second World War army jeeps dodge "line-buses" jammed with passengers. Some of the bonnets have disintegrated. A huge Lucky Strike billboard looms near the market. On the corner, is a sign: "Be kind to animals by not eating them."

One evening, I ventured out into the dark in search of a street stall. It was like wandering through an African township, but without any sense of danger, fires glowing in open hearths, woodsmoke in the air. The surprised shopkeeper opened a bottle of Pepsi, and dispensed the contents into a small plastic bag, preserving the precious glass. He inserted a straw, tied a knot, and watched as I strode off into the night, dangling my prize from one finger. Pity the darkness hid my smile.

JON ASHWORTH

TIPS FOR TRAVELLERS PAGE 21

Getting there

☐ The author flew courtesy of Thai Airways (0171-499 9113), which flies daily from London to Bangkok. Superpex fares from £589. Daily connecting returns to Rangoon cost from £165.

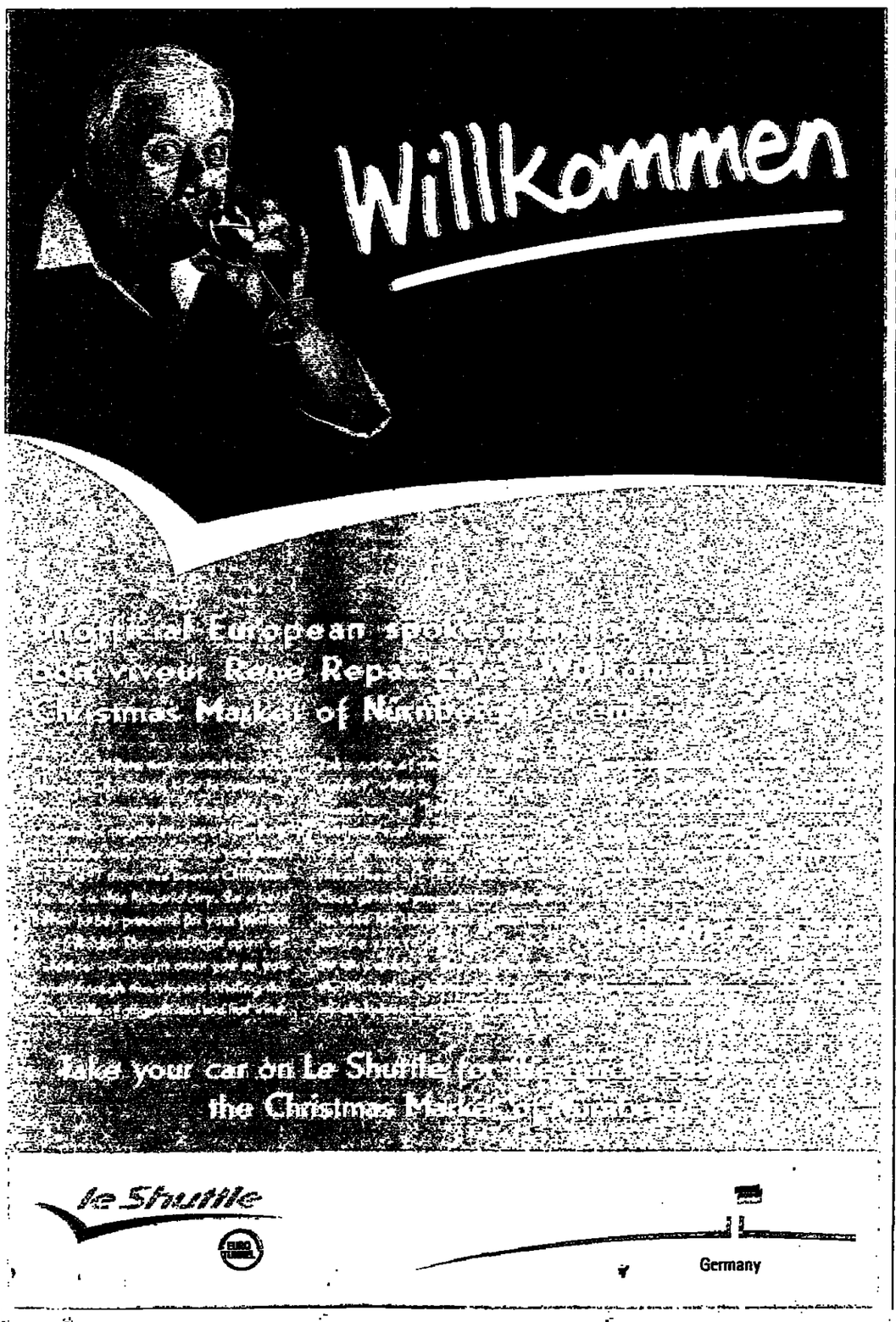
☐ Conditions can be rough in Burma — hot water can be scarce. Stay in privately-run guest houses for about $20-$50 (£13-£33) a night for a double room: more in Rangoon.

☐ Rangoon: The Baiyoke Kandawgyi Hotel has rooms from $150 (£100).

☐ Pagan: The Aung Mingalar Hotel offers a small double room, with rudimentary sanitation, for $30.

☐ Mandalay: The Emerald Land Inn offers double rooms from $49 a night.

☐ For UK tour operators who feature Burma, contact EPG Travel UK Representatives (0181-543 3135).



The Garden Route of South Africa

Lakes, rivers, forests, mountains, gorges and breathtaking views together with an agreeable climate combine to make this one of the most scenic railway journeys in the world.

Our train is 'The Union Limited' having many original coaches from the 30s which have been upgraded. The outward appearance remains unchanged and accommodation is provided in first class four berth compartments for the use of just two persons. Berths convert to seating accommodation during the day and full sleepers during the night. Each compartment has washing facilities and each of the four sleeper carriages has a shower and WC.

Traditional menus are served in the 1933 'Protea' dining car, specifically reconstructed from the original train. Passengers may also make use of the lovely lounge/observation car for viewing or taking a snack.

Many of the sectors of the journey are steam-hauled. The train represents an era of South African railways when train travel was *the* way to get around the country and therefore this is not a luxury train. The train has, of course, been modified to be more comfortable than when it was first built but it should be noted that it is not air-conditioned.

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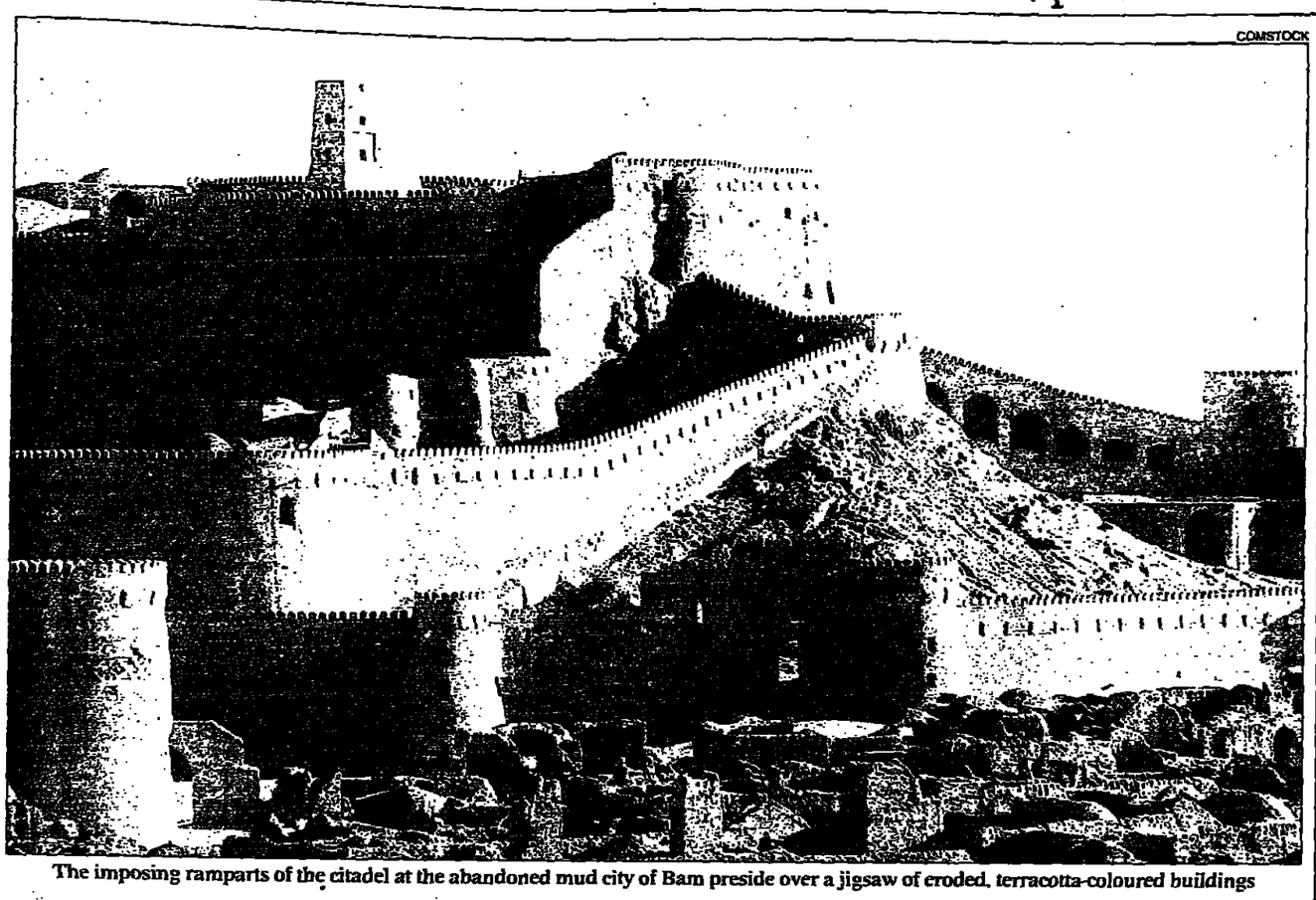
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هكذا من الأصل

INTREPID JOURNEYS: A rare visit to Iran; plus a trek through battle-scarred Afghanistan



COMSTOCK

The imposing ramparts of the citadel at the abandoned mud city of Bam preside over a jigsaw of eroded, terracotta-coloured buildings

Ayatollahs at every turn

"The last time I was here," said the British Airways stewardess as the flight descended towards Tehran, "customs confiscated my copy of *Hello!* I think it was Pamela Anderson they objected to."

Iran may still draw the line at scantily clad *Baywatch* babes, but Western tourists, once viewed as little better than cultural contaminants, are now having considerably more luck getting into this strange and fascinating land. Iran is experiencing a thaw as moderates within the "mullahcracy" attempt to engineer a *rapprochement* with the West. This has had a conspicuous effect upon the visa process; tourists are now being okayed with something close to bureaucratic abandon, as long as they are booked with a tour group and not intending to travel independently.

On the streets, risqué hints of colour are enlivening the traditional monotones of women's regulation scarves and coats. Much of the colourful anti-Western rhetoric such as floor-painted Stars and Stripes alongside the invitation to "Step on America" has now disappeared, which is to be welcomed, although Westerners tend to track down surviving examples such as the impressive brass "Down with USA" adorning the entrance of the swish Homa Hotel in Shiraz, if only for their curiosity value. Generally, however, belligerent references to the Great Satan have given way to charming if unsophisticated tourism sentiments such as the "We go trip bye-bye" stencilled on the windows of our tour bus.

It is estimated that Iran attracts as few as 10,000 tourists each year, of whom just a few hundred are British. Visitors are likely to have this astonishingly varied country largely to themselves as they absorb impressions that at once confirm, and contradict, their lurid expectations. Murals of Ayatollah, or Imam, Khomeini may be everywhere, but so are wall paintings of the likes of Bugs Bunny, Rapunzel, and the Seven Dwarfs. For every intimidating-looking *mullah*, visitors will experience a taxi-driver who speaks good English and demonstrates an impressive pre-revolutionary knowledge of places such as Huntingdon.



Khomeini gazes down from a mural at Isfahan

Isfahan was in mourning for a much-loved local Ayatollah on the day we arrived, and it was in this city of handsome bridges and sky-blue domes that the Islamic Republic felt most thrillingly familiar — but never remotely threatening. Black flags flew around the imposing Imam Square, formerly a polo field for Persian princes, and the great Friday Mosque was spectacularly festooned in black shrouds.

In the city's market, a maze of vaulted corridors flanked by cramped premises piled high with carpets, metalwork and sacks of dried rose petals, a young man gently collared me and led me to his shop. "My grandfather was a very famous miniaturist," Reza explained, showing me examples of the worked pieces of wood and bone decorated with neatly painted pastoral scenes for which the city is famous. "He refused to sell any of his work during his life, so they have become very valuable. If you would like to see some of his pieces, we may be prepared to sell . . ."

Reza's sales patter by palpably lacked bite by Middle Eastern standards. "We are not used to tourists," Cyrus, our tour guide, explained. "Besides, we are not like the Arabs. Riders of camels," he summarily dismissed them. "We are horsemen."

Beyond the impressive remains at the ancient Persian city of Persepolis, the road led to the city of Shiraz, renowned for lush gardens where nightingales still sing. At the resting place of the 14th-century poet Hafiz, in a quiet garden full of citrus trees and roses, Cyrus recited a few lines over the poet's tomb. As he read, several young men at our back joined in, unbidden and quite by heart. Typically Iranian, a supposed police state had revealed itself to be full of poets and garden enthusiasts.

As we travelled east, rocks protruded sheer and without warning from the otherwise endlessly flat steppe, as if we were crossing a great, dun sea patterned by islands. Despite the surprisingly good roads, touring in a country half the size of India entails long drives. We took picnic breaks in the shade of the caravanserais dotted along the ancient silk routes that criss-cross Iran. There, curious villagers brought us handfuls of pomegranates and dates, smiled at us from darkened doorways, or even presented their camels for our inspection.

In this impressively severe semi-desert stood the abandoned mud city at Bam, a collection of eroded, terracotta-coloured buildings oozing dilapidated atmosphere in the shadow of a summit citadel's imposing ramparts. At Yazd, centre of the dwindling Zoroastrian faith, we watched the sun set over the haunting Towers of Silence. Until the practice was abandoned in the 1970s, and in the belief that their corpses would infect the holy earth, members of this ancient faith brought their dead to these hilltop platforms open to the skies, and left them for the vultures. The few bones that remained spoke eloquently for this unearthly place.

But it was beyond the mountains to the north that the beaten track, thin in much of Iran, seemed to peter out entirely. As the bus descended towards the Caspian, we passed through thick stands of jungle shrouded in mist to emerge by a neglected shore, which was lined with paddy fields. Discos and casinos from the Shah's time, when this coast was the country's resort playground, have been turned into army barracks or simply closed. The hotels have gone to seed, their bars shut down and their swimming pools emptied and re-plumbed as Islamically acceptable, if Heath-Robinsonesque, fountains.

"You must see the last of the water lilies," said a boatman, and insisted on showing us the Anzali marshes. As the reeds closed in around the wooden longboat, kingfishers flashed blue about our heads. Egrets, herons and eagles took flight and the sky turned black as the noise of the outboard engines put up multitudes of duck and snipe. We disembarked at the port of Bandar-e-Anzali, where the marshes meet the sea and water swill around precarious rows of shabby shacks. The boatman refused any offer of money.

"I've never had tourists in my boat before," he said. "I'm only glad that you came."

JEREMY SEAL



How to get there

☐ The author was a guest of Exodus (0181-675 5550) on its 19-day Journey to Persia tour, which runs during the spring and autumn and costs, fully inclusive of flights, accommodation and meals, £1,695. He was also a guest of Iran specialists Magic Carpet Travel (0171-385 9975), who offer a range of tours or can tailor-make itineraries as required.

☐ Entry visas cost £33 and can be applied for by either company on their clients' behalf.

☐ Alcohol is strictly banned in Iran. Women are expected to keep their hair covered in public at all times. The best time to visit is in spring and autumn.

☐ Guides to Iran: Lonely Planet (£8.95); Odyssey (£11.95).

Revisiting the land of guns and roses

Afghanistan, according to the writer Bruce Chatwin, was once a land where men in mountainous turbans strolled hand in hand with roses in their mouths and rifles wrapped in chintz. Until the Soviet invasion 16 years ago, it was also a cult destination which ranked with Tibet or Angkor.

Wondering what had become of a country that was a magnet for so many travellers in the 1970s, I set off from the Iranian frontier at Taybad last year to follow the old tourist trail to three of its biggest attractions: the Silk Road towns of Herat and Balkh, and the ancient Buddhist capital of Bamian in the Hindu Kush. Across the border, I found an antique bus, covered with swirling floral decorations and imprecations to Allah, on to which I scrambled for the six-hour ride to Herat.

We drove east into a desolate landscape of bare rolling camel-coloured hills, occasionally passing through villages built entirely of old shipping containers, which have replaced traditional Afghan mud-brick architecture in some outlying villages because they offer protection from bandits who prowl the hills.

Around Herat, the results of the war are clearly visible: once a valley of orchards and vines, it is now a dust bowl. Of all the Afghan towns I visited, Herat saw the most fighting. It was a pleasant surprise, therefore, to wander round on my first day and find so much intact. The old town, still one of the best preserved walled cities in Asia, has the air of a Balkan village untouched since the last century. Dusty, tree-lined streets wind through bazaars selling everything from Japanese television sets to the locally blown blue glass for which the town is famous.

Many of Herat's monuments date from its golden age in the 15th century when the descendants of Tamerlane, Mongol conqueror of Asia, moved the Imperial court here from Samarkand after his death in 1405. Yussuf, my guide, was able to show me most of what is left in a day.

Seen through the dust haze in town, our first destination was a smudge of green on a distant hillside; but as we clattered towards it, in Yussuf's Moskvitch, there materialised a scatter of monumental buildings amid cool, sheltering gardens of umbrella pines — a delightful contrast to dustblown Herat. Ever since it was built in 1428 by Tamerlane's youngest son Shah Rukh, the shrine at Gazar Gah has been a favourite Herati resort, a place for picnics as well as pilgrims.

Looking down on Herat from the terraces of Gazar Gah, Yussuf pointed out a group of what looked like factory chimneys rising from the plain just north of town. This is the Musalla, and these tottering buff minarets are the only survivors of a vast complex of sumptuous mosques and colleges once built by Shah Rukh and his grandson Husein Baikara to rival Tamerlane's Samarkand.

Unlike Gazar Gah, the Musalla, standing in no-man's land between the Russian and the Mujahidin forces, did not have a good war. Of the six minarets that were here before the war, five have survived, but are scarred by bullets and holed by shellfire. Almost nothing remains of their tilework.

While future travellers will come, as I did, to pay mournful homage to these lost masterpieces, many of the other important monuments in Herat have barely changed from prewar times. You can still sit in the flagged courtyard of the Friday Mosque, which dates from 1200, and admire the swirling arabesques and gentian inscriptions that cover every inch of its tiled walls; or see the Citadel, restored during the war and whose grim mud battlements command the town as though cannon were still in the future.

Beyond Herat, travelling is more difficult. I found a convoy of sheepskin dealers who were making the journey and agreed to take me with them. For ten days, we drove through a moonscape of bare hills and dusty tumbledown villages. Eventually, we descended from the mountains on to the Turkestan plain which stretches north into Uzbekistan as far as the Kirghiz steppe. To the south, blue snowcaps shone on the northern ramparts of the Hindu Kush. My companions deposited me outside the one monument of note in Mazar-i Sharif: the 15th-century tomb of Caliph Ali. Balkh, ten miles to the west, repaid the effort involved in getting there. It is essentially one vast ruin: the massive, dilapidated walls date back to the 3rd century and the tumbledown fortress to the 11th. Its history is almost too profuse: Zoroaster is said to have preached here in 6000 BC; Alexander the Great used it as his base during the conquest of Transoxania; Genghis Khan sacked it in 1220; and 50 years later, Marco Polo visited the ruins on his way to China.



Merchants dressed in traditional *chapans*

My brief visit told me only that this epitaph to a civilisation has not, like the Musalla at Herat, become an epitaph to an epitaph. Genghis Khan, rather than the Russians or the Mujahidin, still has the last word on wrecking Balkh.

The final stage of my journey took me high up the Hindu Kush passes to the Bamian valley. Carved into the blood-red cliffs which dominate the town stand the two colossal Buddhas which made Bamian such a magnet for tourists. Dating from the 3rd century AD, the heavily built figures tower in their niches; each over 100ft high. Around them, the cliffs are honeycombed with elaborately carved grottoes which housed thousands of monks until the coming of Islam in the 10th century. The Buddhas seemed undamaged but in places the cliffs have collapsed through erosion, taking with them some of the grottoes. The area is now a military base but my guide persuaded the commander to let me in.

Standing on the head of the larger Buddha as the sun dipped to the rim of the Koh-i Baba mountains in the west, the dangers of Bamian seemed far away. But it is unlikely many other travellers will enjoy this experience until peace returns. But for those too impatient to wait, who want to see something of this appealing country in moderate comfort and without the risks to life and limb posed by AK47-toting teenagers, go to Herat and see what you have missed over the past 16 years.

JONATHAN FORD

Afghanistan: fact file

☐ At present only charity workers and journalists can obtain visas. If the situation changes, Hinterland Travel (01883 743584) will include Afghanistan in its 38-day Caravan Tour from September 1996 (£2,850, excluding flights, visas, food and any accommodation). An alternative route is also planned. The Foreign Office advises travellers not to go to Afghanistan.

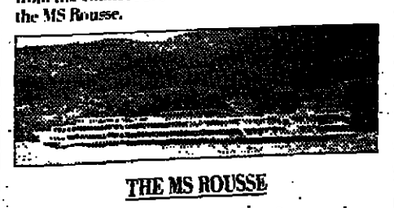
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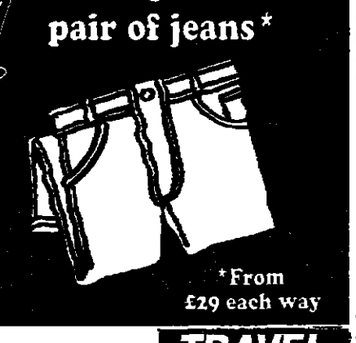
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ROUND-UP: The bargain that was too good to be true; pick of the package holidays; disruption in India

Perils of a cut-price flight deal

The unfortunate experience of a young Worcester couple who planned to spend Christmas with family in New Zealand should serve as a salutary warning to anyone booking a cut-price flight.

Andrew Brooks and his wife Justine had saved for more than three years to visit their family more than 11,400 miles away. So when a television "small ad" on Teletext offered a return flight on Japan Airlines for £950 each they realised they could finally afford it.

Bradley and Vaughan (B&V), a north London agency specialising in long-haul travel, took their booking on August 25. "We asked the person who took the booking whether it was confirmed, and he said it was as long as we sent the total amount," Mr Brooks said. Accordingly, he paid a deposit of £300 followed, a week later, by the balance of £1,620, including £20 for the airport departure tax. He quickly received confirmation and a booking receipt.

There was, it seemed, no more to do but plan for the trip which involved JAL flights from Heathrow to Osaka on December 17 and on to Christchurch a day later. "They said the tickets would be with us two to three weeks before the flight," Mr Brooks said.

Then came the bombshell.

"On Friday, November 24, I received a phone call to inform me that our flight was not confirmed and we were on a waiting list," he said. Frantic with worry, the couple contacted the agency who insisted that they had never been promised confirmed tickets and should have known that they were on a waiting list.

A B&V executive said: "These were very keenly priced tickets which we obtained through a consolidator. If Mr Brooks says he was not aware of that we can't disbelieve him but there has clearly been a misunderstanding."

Consolidators are intermediaries who offer to take up unsold tickets in bulk from airlines at a big reduction and then sell them on to travel agents or through advertisements. Most airlines try to distance themselves from consolidators and some even deny that they use them. But rather than be stuck with thousands of unsold seats, they prefer to take what income they can get.

At times this works well, especially in a recession or in the slack months, such as November or February. But it does not work when numbers are booming, and especially at peak times — such as just before and after Christmas — when most seats can be sold at their full quoted price.

Sadly for Mr and Mrs Brooks, they were hoping to fly at just such a difficult time. The Brookses had no choice but to try to find an alternative flight. A round trip with British Airways cost them £700 more than the flight they thought they had booked.

B&V has promised to refund the payment made to it in full.

Japan Airlines said: "We are extremely sorry for the couple. But it must be the travel agents' responsibility to explain to clients exactly what is involved in the booking."

HARVEY ELLIOTT



Escape the dreary winter weather with a trip to Kenya. A seven-night safari with Abercrombie & Kent costs £1,868, including a stay at a tree hotel

TRAVEL TIPS

☐ Join Swan Hellenic's new ship, the *Minerva*, on her maiden voyage which departs from Genoa on April 29 and visits Naples, Capri, Messina, Olympia, Crete, Rhodes, Ephesus, Delos, and Delphi, finishing in Venice. The cruise will include panellists from *Gardener's Question Time* who will be broadcasting from *Minerva* on May 5. Passengers are invited to submit gardening questions. The cruise costs £2,810, including outward flight from Gatwick to Genoa and return from Venice, all meals, excursions, entrance fees, porterage and gratuities. Details and reservations: 0171-800 2200.

☐ Journey Latin America (0181-747 8315) is offering a 24-day expedition to Peru, including the northern Andean town of Cajamarca, the adobe brick city of Chan Chan and the ancient Inca capital of Cuzco. Departing on May 17, the expedition costs £1,322 per person, including return flights from Heathrow or Gatwick, guides, transport and some excursions.

☐ Abercrombie & Kent (0171-730 9600) has a seven-night safari in Kenya which includes a night in Nairobi, a stay in a tree hotel by a floodlit waterhole and three nights at the Masai Mara National Game Reserve. Departing on December 9, the cost of £1,868 includes full board on safari, B&B in Nairobi, return flights, transfers and entrance fees to the game parks.

☐ Celebrate the New Year in Rome and the traditional celebrations with a short break from CV Travel (0171-581 0851). Festivities include fireworks that light the city when viewed from one of its seven hills, and a New Year's Day service in the Vatican with a blessing by the Pope. Four nights B&B at the four-star Hotel Raphael cost from £584 per person, including return scheduled flights from Heathrow or Gatwick.

☐ Great Rail Journeys (01904 679969) is offering a narrow-gauge railway journey across the Alps via the Oberalp Pass. The trip includes an excursion to Zermatt and Interlaken with the opportunity to travel to Europe's highest railway station some 11,333ft up the Jungfrau mountain, plus a journey on the Rhaetian Railway to St. Moritz. Visitors stay in Brig and the medieval town of Chur and have one night in Brussels. Departs June 30 or September 8, taking Eurostar and TGV from Waterloo. Price £690 per person including return rail travel, transfers, excursions and seven nights half-board plus one night B&B.

☐ Leger Holidays (01709 839830) has a seven-day coach trip through Austria in January, February and March next year. The first trip leaves on January 21 and includes four nights half-board at a hotel in the Austrian Tyrol, with excursions to Kitzbühel, Kirchberg, Innsbruck and Salzburg. Priced £219, based on two sharing half-board hotel accommodation, the trip includes breakfast in France or Belgium and executive coach travel.

☐ A four-day break in Venice from England and Wales can be booked through Cox and Kings (0171-873 5013). Staying at the five-star Hotel Danieli, the break includes cocktails on Christmas Eve, black-tie dinner and the chance to attend Midnight Mass at St. Mark's. Prices from £950 per person sharing a twin room, sightseeing, B&B and return flights.

☐ For single travellers, Companions Worldwide (01628 826903) has a four-night break at the La Manga Club in South East Spain from December 30-January 3. A range of activities includes golf, tennis and riding. The cost of £575 includes return flights from Gatwick, use of a hire car and a New Year's Eve party.

☐ A Christmas break in Germany's Moselle Valley, departing on December 23, is on offer from Moswin Tours (0116 271 9922). The six-day holiday includes a trips to the Eifel Mountains and the ancient city of Trier plus a river journey to Zell-Mosel for wine-tasting. The break costs £275 per person, based on two sharing, and includes return coach travel and half-board hotel accommodation.

☐ A specialist gardening tour of the Italian Lakes, bookable through Page and Moy (0116 2524444), departs on April 21 for seven nights. Accommodation is in four and three-star hotels. The holiday costs £975 per person, including return flights from Heathrow or Manchester, half-board accommodation, excursions, entrance fees and guides.

PERRY CLEVELAND-PECK

Goa in airport chaos

INDIA appears not to want tourists this winter. Thousands of holidaymakers to Goa are being disrupted by a decision to alter the granting of landing slots to charter planes. Goa is primarily a military airport. So civilian aircraft must abide by the naval authorities' decision.

Inspirations, a travel specialist to Goa, was forced to reschedule the time or date of more than 60 380-seater aircraft over the winter season. Thousands of clients have been affected.

My family is among them. Our flight, booked seven months ago, has been rescheduled three days earlier. My sons, who break up from school that day, can just catch the plane; my husband's work was less easy to re-arrange, but he is now able to come with us.

The return journey is more tricky. The company can get us back one day away from our original choice, but the only flight available is to Manchester rather than London. The flight lands early evening on New Year's Eve, too late to catch the last train to London. That means booking — and paying for — a hotel room in Manchester.

I HAVE worked in India for 15 years. This is our first family trip to India and I wanted it all to be perfect. It was a profound disappointment that India had let me down. Some have put up with the inconvenience. Many have gone to a more reliable country for winter sun.

Goa is now one of the top destinations for European winter sun-seekers and tourism is its second most lucrative industry. India has created havoc with the goodwill of many of its clients.

LOUISE NICHOLSON

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ATTRACTIVE 50 year old Channel Island widow would like to meet solvent, unattached, well educated Jew or Caucasian American male between 55-65. Her main objective is to have faith in a gentleman again. He must take a pride in his appearance, non smoker, preferably tee total, SOH. She would relocate for the right partner. Please include recent photo with reply. Box No 2220.

ATTRACTIVE international lawyer, a senior account manager, a classy classical musician, a stunning economist, a refined head teacher, and several businesswomen chose to join us this month Are you choosy? We can spoil quality men for choice. The Executive Club 0171 499 8833.

ATTRACTIVE widow (Edinburgh), highly intelligent, romantic. Interests: literature, music (Schubert, Brahms), art, travel, would like to meet tall very presentable, preferably ex public school man, kind, with same interests in his 60s. Please Reply to Box No 2028.

ATTRACTIVE happy young 55, black nurse/midwife, 5'6, ex doctors wife, speaks fluent German, seeks intellectual genuine honest, reliable man who likes home, travel and a good respectable life for a harmonious and serious new start. Please Reply to Box No 1994

ATTRACTIVE black lady, 40s, graduate professional, 5'5 own home and car, loves gardening, music and theatre, youngest child at university. I am looking for an honest ordinary guy who is tired of being alone Must be over 40. Photo will be returned. Please Reply to Box No 2303.

ATTRACTIVE female graduate, 35, green eyes, tall 5'9, slim, intelligent, achiever, creative, warm, emotionally aware, free thinker, varied interests, seeks tall male counterpart. London. Please Reply to Box No 2052.

ATTRACTIVE Educated, prof. lady (53) of reduced circumstances wishes to be spoilt by affluent elderly English gentleman in return for lots of tender loving care. Sussex/Surrey. Please Reply to Box No 2003

ATTRACTIVE woman, graduate, broad interests, particularly arts, music, antiques, gardens, animals - seeks someone special. Richmond (40+). Please Reply to Box No 2234

BEAUTIFUL woman, socially presentable, divorced, likes children, blonde, 5'7, early 40s, enjoys art, theatre, opera, dining out, functions-balls, bridge, travel, Ascot, the country etc. seeks man who will appreciate, respect and spoil her and who enjoys a quality life Please Reply to Box No 1979.

BETWEEN here & the Mediterranean, I live. Tall, dark, gorgeous, feminine, elegant, I look. Twin sons, I adore. Travelling, country/city life, foreign foods, diving, world affairs, I enjoy. Import/export, I do. Sociable, affectionate, humorous, 42, I am. Cosmopolitan, handsome, classy businessman, I need. Tel. & Photo pls. South. Box 2164.

BOLD & Beautiful interesting altruistic widow 54 retired 5'9", London born. Italian/Irish. Gypsy with a touch of class Green-eyed Gemini worth 150 camels Myriad interests. Seeks nice educated tall N/S strong tactile deeply caring gentleman. GSOH for Magic/Marriage. Borders based UK Here in paradise at Box 1157 8131 Kato Paphos Cyprus. Can move on. Please write. Quisque Anavit Cras Amet? T/P 06231628.

BUSY and fussy, fiesty redhead, seeks brilliant, witty, and preferably gorgeous man. Thirtyish n/s, photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 2279.

CHARMING attractive, London-based woman WSOH, seeks funloving man (50's) with sparkle to share weekends with. Volvo drivers need not reply! Please Reply to Box No 2114

CASCADE......... Bristol
CASCADE............Cardiff
CASCADE............Bath
CASCADE............Swansea
CASCADE.....Gloucestershire
CASCADE............Taunton
CASCADE.......Pembrokeshire
CASCADE......Worcestershire
civilised Social Groups for the unattached aged 30'ish to 50'ish contact Howard or Jan 01495 75 53 09 noon to 7pm any day. Fax 01495 759046.

CHRISTIAN lady, caring, attractive, independent, kind (family grown up) enjoys literature, walking, travel, home making and hospitality WLTM Christian man with similar interests for friendship initially. M11/north. Please Reply Box 2249.

CLASSY Cheshire lady 35, tall, elegant and eloquent, invites tall, handsome, healthy intelligent knight offering joie de vivre. Photo essential Box 2039

CLASSY ladies join us because of the quality of people they need to meet. If you're one of life's winners call The Executive Club 0171 499 8833.

CROSSWORD, Backgammon, cards? I'm bright, pretty, funny and 40 enjoy theatre, opera, music, good food, fine wines and love to cook. WLTM someone who believes in romance. Please Reply to Box No 1998

CURVY, slim, attractive 35. Equestrian interests. Seeks fit young man, outdoor type, n/s with talent. Beds. Box No 2182

DOCTOR 33, single, no ties, attractive, n/s, WLTM sincere educated gentleman for a commited relationship with a view to marriage and family life. Reply to Box No 1999

ELIGIBLE, decorative, vivacious, loyal, educated, discerning mid-30s girl (many interests/friends!) seeks Public School gent. of integrity & understanding (40-55ish), pref. widower, for permanent relationship. Photo please. Box no 2108

ETERNALLY optimistic, culturally Jewish lady enjoys music, theatre, walking, travel, seeks like minded 60 something gentleman London area. Box 2239

EXTREMELY attractive, warm, adventurous London based arts grad, 40s, loves life, laughter, literature and L'Italia, seeks male counterpart. Box 2082.

FRENCH, fit, fun loving, affectionate, lovely, 30, seeks n/s gentleman, 29-36. Surrey Please Reply to Box No 2230

FUN romantic new year. How would you amuse a stylish, sporty, slim lady 42 who likes good food, wine and travelling? Reply with photo to Box 2277.

GUENEVIERE 33, pretty, witty, professional seeks tall, slim, handsome, kind, educated, solvent Lancelot (31-42). Photo, quilled letter de rigeur. Please Reply to Box No 2158.

HAMPSTEAD prof 40, pretty, witty, occasionally Jewish, seeks Mr Wonderful. If you have replied to this advert before, please write again, as the letters have not reached me. Box No 2228

HOLLAND attractive Dutch brunette, intelligent, slim, 5'7. WLT correspond, have friendship with sincere male, 35-45 Please reply with photo to Box No 2087

HOW nice it wld. be to find a great friend/partner 60+ tallish man whose interests/chemistry match mine. Based countryside Nr Banbury, Oxon., attractive educated div. lady likes laughter, conversation, gardening, music, countryside, travel, warmth. No hang-ups, ties, complications (or golf!). Please Reply to Box No 2153.

INGENUOUS unpretentious, passionate, creative, workaholic divorcee, (39) seeks financially secure free spirit into life, children, food, arts etc. Berks/London. Reply to Box No 1889

INTENSELY Individual Introductions in London with Close Encounters - call Sue today 0171 289 3777.

IS there a guy out there under 52 who hasn't slipped gracefully into middle age? Then this tall blonde 40s lady would like to hear. London. Box No 1980

KEEN bridge player (club level) Cheerful, knowledgeable, kind hearted, mid 60s, enjoys eating out, classical music and opera seeks n/s gent. West London. Please Reply to Box No 2214.

LIFE'S Short, play hard. Fun-loving, caring, slim, blonde, blue eyed, extremely attractive 38, seeks one true love to share this Reebok dream. Photo and letter please to Box No 2307

LINE DANCER wanted! lady seeks male friend for social evenings. 45-55, n/s, 5ft 7in+. South Bucks. Reply Box 2204

LONDON/IRISH petite, slim, curvy brunette, young 40's. Vivacious and attractive. Are you an old fashioned masculine man looking for a real woman, if so plse write soon. Box 2264

LOVELY leggy blonde, London based, 5'9, slim, artistic, happy, humorous, adventurous, loves good food, log fires, opera, skiing, travelling, hates beards, golf and football, seeks clever, witty, attractive, articulate, affluent, gentleman, 39+ for mutual spoiling. Letter and photo to Box No 2206.

MALAYSIAN Chinese, London nurse, attractive single WLTM caring prof Eng./Cat. gent 36-45. Please Reply Box 2166.

MANY ATTRACTIVE Ladies in The Midlands' Exclusive Hospitality Company, extensive social events calendar. Tel Exclusive Co. 01564 778200

MEN It's simple - one Free call equals 963 eligible, attractive women, plus an active social life at Close Encounters Cardiff, Bristol, Bath, Cheltenham, Swindon, Salisbury, Reading. 0800 141 141. Open every day.

50+ men of the West Midlands wanted. Over 300 stylish ladies waiting to meet you. Free details, Elite 0121 386 2234.

MEN Why call long distance? Close Encounters Sussex, Kent, Surrey, London, has an abundance of eligible women. Call 01424 772027.

MERRY widow 1932 vintage, attractive, erudite, many interests, SOH, own home, seeks south based princely counterpart. Box No 2296.

MUCH LOVED Grandma, gregarious, non conformist, Liberal, romantic, seeks educated Grandpa for company to restore sparkle. 68+, loneliness is curable, lets talk. Midlands. Please Reply to Box No 2050

MYSTIQUE oriental, London based, elegant, sensual and educated seeks n/s prof/business gentleman. 38-58 for love and sincere relationship. Photos appreciated. Reply Box 2261

NEEDED commited best friend/lover, tall 30ish, likes fun, children and animals for sincere 37 years attractive slim blonde in Surrey Please Reply Box 1976

NEW YEAR à deux at Pemberley? Elizabeth Bennett, 1942 vintage, awaits her invitation from Darcy. Portrait essential Please Reply Box 2209.

NORTHANTS Men Stop One phone call can introduce you to over 300 stylish ladies from 25-75. No 1 personal introduction service. Call 01536 524440.

ORIENTAL 44, nearly qualified accountant, attractive, slim, childless. Seeks nice looking professional man under 52 for friendship, love, marriage. London, Kent, Surrey. Please Reply to Box No 2157.

OUTGOING attractive lady, 33 today! Good cook, good job, enjoys theatre, cinema, swimming and tennis. Seeks genuine caring partner. Please Reply with photo to Box No 2033.

PARAMEDIC Black, attractive, slim, separated, 51. WLTM kind, sincere gentleman. London area. Box No 2183.

PRETTY blonde classy lady 40, independent successful, outgoing, funny and intelligent with children N.Kent WLTM successful caring tall man with affluence, brains & humour. Please Reply to Box No 2104.

PRETTY petite, blue eyed blonde, mid 30's, Oxfordshire, with a preference for kind, caring, compassionate, funloving, successful gentleman. Photo appreciated. Reply Box 2268

READ the Road Less Travelled? Then you know what's important to this attractive, slim, brunette (41) and the relationship I seek. Interested? Box No 2137.

RETIRED professional widow, age 59, bereft at loss of husband, would like to meet like-minded widower. Quite attractive, intelligent, fun loving, many interests. South Manchester based. Reply Box 2193

SCOTTISH (North/East), 34, professional, 5'8", fit, wide range of interests (town & country). If this appeals to you and you are successful, tall, fit, no ties and no pets, please send photo & phone no to Box 2271

SENSUAL sophisticated, Surrey based, blonde, business lady, WLTM, sincere, equal man 38-50, n/s with WSOH, for fun loving, meaningful relationship and quality times together. New year. New beginnings? Photo ensures reply Box No 2256

SKIING partner? Highly attractive lady, late 30s WLTM a fellow skier or rider over 40. London weekdays, country weekends. Reply to Box 2029.

SLIM smart, attractive lady seeks professional gentleman 48-60, London area Box No 2141

STOCKING filler wanted for Christmas. Attractive, professional lady, separated, 47, outgoing and stylish is looking to fill those lonely dark nights with Gentleman, 47-54, tall, outgoing, fun to be with & humorous. My interests are Antique toys, crafts, music & theatre. London/SE Area. Photo ensures reply. Box 1684.

SWAP your celibacy for my Christmas stockings? - Educated, literary? mature, successful men only 40+ Central London. Please Reply Box 2166

TAMING of the Shrew? Young widow with daughter, attractive, headstrong, vital, social WLTM 38-42 years, n/s, 6', fit, intelligent, entertaining man. Are you ready for a wonderful challenge? No commitments please. Midlands/Cheshire. Please Reply to Box No 2144.

VERY attractive young looking lady, 50, 5'4, dark hair, dark eyes, slim, elegant, kind and caring with various interests seeks a handsome, kind, educated, wealthy, generous, n/s, gentleman age 45-55. Photo, phone please. Berks. Box 1985.

WARM Warwickshire professional lady early 40's, attractive, slim, no ties, many interests, looking for well groomed, sporty, amusing, n/s gentleman 40-50. Photo please. Reply to Box No 2124

WIDOW attractive, slim, classy, GSOH, lady golfer WLTM similar gentleman golfer 55-60 who likes to travel. M4, M5 corridor - Please Reply to Box No 2056.

WOULD you like a slim petite, golfing, skiing blonde for Christmas? (and maybe always) 50 year, well educated, well travelled, many interests. Essex based. Needs tallish, slimish, handsome gentleman of 48-58 years to love and share all the good things in life Box 2306.

ZZZzzz Wake up! Close Encounters is open Saturday and Sunday. Call free 0800 141 141.

GENTLEMEN

AMIABLE professional man 46, romantic and musical wishes to share family life with like minded woman. London. Please Reply to Box No 2219

ZZZzzz Wake up! Close Encounters is open Saturday and Sunday Call free 0800 141 141.

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GENTLEMEN

ANGLO Australian travelled prof SE Kent, 48. NS single GSOH. Loveless. Lonely offers commitment & Happiness 60's Opera Classical Astronomy France Tropics Gardening History Poetry Wine appeal? + Photo = Reply. Box No 2079

ARCHITECT/Company Director early 50s N. London based. Humorous, wealthy and moderately fit. 6ft n/s seeks slimish lady who likes jazz, opera, mountains and maybe Florence for New Year. Box No 2062.

ARCHITECT, 59, compassionate, caring, hedonistic, optimistic, seeks slimish soulmate Cambs. Please Reply to Box No 2240

ARE you a 39ish petite brunette prof. girl, active, enjoy travel, probably ski, maybe sail and definitely prefer weekends in the Lakes to being on the beach at Marbella? A n/s with a GSOH living Glos/Avon/Wilts and looking for a likeminded 49ish prof. man for friendship and who knows? Then maybe we're both in luck. Box 2065.

ARE you open, aware, interested in personal growth? If yes and live in South East, and are late 30s early 40s I would love to meet you. I am a tall, slim, 49ish, successful professional looking for someone with whom to share a fulfilling life. Photo appreciated. Box 2267.

ARTICULATE div Brit. millionaire, 5'8, 60s. Humorous, cultured, thoughtful, adaptable. International lifestyle with homes UK & France. Seeks attractive, feminine elegant lady 35-55 with indep. means & the intellectual/ sensual capacity to stimulate him in mind and body (he will try to reciprocate). Also to act as companion/soul mate & any other role which might evolve. London/ Home counties. Phone/ photo please to Box No 2203.

ASIAN male, professional, single, 31, 5'7" with GSOH, caring outgoing, happy but lonely, seeks lady for fun and friendship. Plse Rply to Box No 2289

A West Midlands 36 year old young man, successful, superb caring qualities, has slight walking difficulties but overcome with personality and enthusiasm, wants loyal caring, sincere, friend/relationship. Photo please and letter. Box 2113.

CASCADE........ Bristol
CASCADE..........Cardiff
CASCADE..........Bath
CASCADE..........Swansea
CASCADE.....Gloucestershire
CASCADE..........Taunton
CASCADE.......Pembrokeshire
CASCADE......Worcestershire
civilised Social Groups for the unattached aged 30'ish to 50'ish contact Howard or Jan 01495 75 53 09 noon to 7pm any day. Fax 01495 759046.

CHARMING attractive professional guy (music business) 45, North London, varied interests, jazz, restaurants, theatre etc. looking for attractive female 30-46 to spend some good times together. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 2013.

COUNTRY GENT, East Anglia, 28yrs old, 6ft 4", dark haired, outgoing personality, enjoys country pursuits seeks tall, slim, attractive, country or city girl, 20-36, for fun & possibly romance. Photo plse Box 2021

CUMBRIA based professional man, 35, attractive, honest, single, GSOH, likes music, sports, travel, arts WLTM pretty warmhearted lady for sharing relationship Please reply with photo and letter to Box No 2272

DALES/West Yorks Prof gentleman seeks slim lady 40-50 to share thoughts, outings, feelings, perhaps more Box 2238

DENTAL SURGEON interested in activities that tax and enhance the capabilities of both brain and body. Fifties, optimistic, sensitive, slightly workaholic. RGSOH (I won't go the whole hog) Seeks complimentary woman for partnership. London. Box No 2292

ENTHUSIASTIC optimistic successful property professional 35. London working. Herts/Bucks borders living, sporty (squash, tennis, skiing), laid back, entertaining, seeks n/s sincere, fun loving lady to romance. Box No 2148.

FIT and good looking, public school, Cambridge Graduate, single, 33, 5'11" seeks slim and sexy soulmate in town or country for fun, adventure, love and romance. Please write with photo & tel number. Box 2090

GENUINELY good looking, successful gentleman, dark haired, aged 43, GSOH, with a strong personality, would wish to meet a very feminine and non feminist good looking lady with an excellent figure who wishes to be wined and dined and be generally spoilt in a fun one to one relationship. Photo and telephone number ensures reply. Please Reply to Box No 1852.

GLASGOW & environs professional male (mid 50s, tall, fit, no ties, well-educated, open-minded) seeks presentable professional lady under 40 for conversation, dining, country walks, and any activities you might reasonably suggest. Please Reply to Box No 1953.

HAMPSHIRE based professional male - tall slim and single (40). Seeking classy professional lady to share country life style and good times. Photo and phone no. appreciated. Box No 1898.

I AM not an entrepreneur, just a normal intelligent pipe smoking Times reader with sense of humour and kind disposition. A graduate, now mid 60s and semi retired. I have a reasonable variety of cultural and social interests with BBC2, Channel 4 and Radio 3/4 tastes. I would very much like to share interests with a well spoken, gentle, compatible lady living in the Southern Counties who has an enquiring mind and medium or well built figure. Could this be you? If so, please write to Box No 2308.

INCURABLE romantic, fit, n/s, 52, handsome, educated, witty, 6ft, tactile, loyal. Interests include magnotherapy, antiques, tennis, travel (favorites Sydney, Bermuda, Bali) fun to be with, seeks solvent, slim, romantic lady to spoil and pamper and satisfy every need. Photo essential. London/ Chislehurst. Reply Box No 2281

INTELLIGENT attractive man (early 40s) with own cars, home, successful business in Brighton and London. Likes tennis, theatre, dining out WLTM attractive, slim lady (under 45) with GSOH for friendship and/or romance. Photo appreciated and returned. Please Reply to Box No 2184.

INTENSELY Individual Introductions in London with Close Encounters - call Sue today 0171 289 3777.

LADIES It's simple - one free call equals 830 eligible, attractive men, plus an active social life at Close Encounters Cardiff, Bristol, Bath, Cheltenham, Swindon, Salisbury, Reading. Call 0800 141 141. Open every day.

LADIES Why call long distance? Close Encounters Sussex, Kent, Surrey, London, has an abundance of eligible men. Call 01424 772027.

LIBRAN lad 50, 6ft, seeks quiet n/s lass of shape and wit, 38+ for simple London pleasures. Photo? Reply to Box No 2118

MALVERN man. Professional. Separated. Wishes to meet local lady up to 35 years who knows there is more to life than watching television. Box 2218.

MANCHESTER 33 5ft 5", prof. christian, dark hair, green eyes, red car, stupid SOH, into tennis, cycling, walks, talks & music. I'd love to meet an intelligent, fun lady for friendship/ romance. I've never advertised before so if you've never replied, give it a whirl. Photo & letter please. Box No 2276

NORTHANTS Ladies Stop One phone call can introduce you to over 300 stylish men from 25-75. No. 1 personal introduction service. Call 01536 524440.

N.W. CUMBRIA Countryside, widower 52, n/s, no children, animal lover, enjoys walking, cycling, swimming, gardening and dining out. Seeks sincere, kind, homeloving lady to share what life has to offer Please Reply to Box No 2282

NEW FOREST 6ft+ tall, handsome, divorced gentleman, 58 years, wide range of interests seeks attractive lady for warm happy, affectionate relationship. Photo please. Box 2195

ONE GOOD man, 46, 6', slim, fit, confident, n/s, incredible looks, wonderful SOH, alive, passionate, tactile, caring and loyal, solvent, successful, own business, loves everything in life but only one woman. Seeks her in an equally passionate, vivacious, slim and attractive female. 30's-40's, with both inner and outer beauty who feels excited about the future. You've been on your own for too long now- its time to get up, get out and get your photo taken. You've got nothing to lose but me and a chance of happiness. Surrey (Woking) Please Reply to Box No 2257

OSTENSIBLY James Fox: really James Dean with James Garner tendencies, own velvet voice, impish smile invites pouty lipped, saucer eyed, voluptuous vamp with Helen Mirren mind (ono) for sharing his 55th Xmas et seqq. (West Lond). Box 1181.

PHILOSOPHER, mid-60s seeks blue stocking - philosopher, historian or other learned lady. Academic or autodidact, just as long as she is master of her field of study. Ad rem mox nox. Please Reply to Box No 1969.

PROFESSIONAL male 41, has much to offer the right lady, hopefully she will be between 28-38, educated, sophisticated but with a VGSOH and a healthy appetite for all physical aspects of life. I am 5'11, good build, generous & warm hearted, multi faceted and looking to share my comfortable life style J28-M26 area. Descriptive reply. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 2111

PROFESSIONAL presentable, educated but not yet perfect gentleman, 44, 5ft 8, quiet but strong, recently seperated so needs to play. WLTM lady London/Surrey for fun, friendship and to please. Box 2129

QUESTION. If you are truly stunning, smile as a first reaction and under 35 then why are you replying to this? Answer. Because you are prepared to try anything once Be honest, all photos returned. Box No 2046.

RETIRED police officer, 49, attractive, sincere, solvent, seeks attractive lady, similar means with no ties for life partnership. North West/ anywhere. Please Reply Box 2031.

ROMANTIC Leo, handsome, active, own business, Mediterranean origin, enjoys keep fit, outings, adores the sea and the sun, travels a lot, looking for Mrs Right to share the love and the laughter and what comes after. Must be 20-30, with GSOH and good looking, romantic and above all enjoy travelling. Photo please. Reply to Box No 2208

SEAN Connery lives in Belfast & seeks beautiful slim 36-42 yr woman for physicality & fun with holiday abroad in New Yr. Photos please. Box 2163.

SEMI early retired grad. male, 50's, tall, arts orientated, seeks n/s intelligent, lovable lady, without constraints, for xmas and beyond. Hants or adjacent. Please Reply to Box No 2282

37, 6'4, slim, educated, successful, honourable, honest, witty, laid-back, happy but lonely chap, into rural outdoors. Invites letters (Pembs Coast) Please Reply to Box No 2020

SOUL MATE Prof man, cultured, caring, sincere, n/s, GSOH, enjoys classical music, decorative and fine arts, theatre, travel, good food, wine and company seeks lively, attractive lady (50-55) with spiritual dimension for enduring love and companionship. London/ S.E. pref. Photo appr. Please Reply to Box No 2102

SOUTH Wales man, 36, good looking, GSOH, likes arts, sports, travel, seeks kind, sincere, happy woman. Box 2063.

STUDENT & German 5'11", slim, n/s! Age 24, would like to find friendship & love with a slim lady. Reply Box No 2248

SUCCESSFUL, busy, but relish my time off. 56, 5'10", on my own 2 yrs+ Practical, francophile, wind in my hair, firesides. Radio 3, music, eating out, walking, cycling etc. that's me. Happy, but yearning to fill that gap. Seeks slim brunette (?) 40-50. S. Midlands, but can travel. Box No 2161.

SURREY/HAMPSHIRE Berkshire borders gentleman professional 49, graduate, slim, good looking, seeks an intelligent, sparkling lady, who is elegant, attractive, sensual and tactile for mutual happiness and romance. Together we could enjoy, the shared pleasures of life, country weekends, music, walking, touring France, mutual respect, holding hands, cosy fireside evenings, magical moments and much much more. Please Reply to Box No 1330

SURREY based professional, newly single, own business, n/s, young 52, seeks special - slim elegant sensuous lady, 30-48, for fun, outings, weekends, holidays. If you want lots of TLC apply (photo ensures reply) Box No 2169.

TALL, humorous, kind, tolerant, intellectual type, aged 45, professional job, enjoys exercising his mind and body, n/s, WLTM attractive and intelligent lady with or without children for possibly lasting relationship, London or South East. Please Reply to Box No 2109.

TALL, handsome, 50 year old professional, n/s, living Lincolnshire, seeks younger, attractive, happy lady for a loving, tender, permanent relationship. You must love the countryside and lots of cuddles in front of the fire. Letter and photo please. Reply Box 2191

WARM friendly, youthful, humorous man 56, seeks a younger, feminine woman. Deep feeling and loving for a shared life. I'm tall, slim with dark hair and eyes, presently London based but keen to move. My interesting business gives me a varied life, no ties now, wide interests but the simple pleasures, especially rural peace and quiet, most appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 2128

WIDOWER professional man of property, tall, slim, handsome, caring, affectionate and considerate. Interests countryside, theatre, music, travel, gardening, walking, dining out, n/s, lovely historic home M40, good lifestyle WLTM slim, attractive lady, 45-55, warmhearted who would tune into all the above and appreciate TLC for a lasting relationship. Photo returned. Please Reply to Box No 2232

WILTSHIRE Widower, 58, n/s, needs female company. 40-55, to restart living and loving. All offers considered. Box No 2243

XMAS in the Sun!! Successful, solvent, 35 year old international businessman looking for that special lady (23-33) who has brains and body in harmony to spend xmas with at his Florida Beach home. Recent photo and phone number ensures response. Please Reply to Box No 2274

40 YEAR Old tactile West London man seeks affluent, fur wearing, smoking, shooting/safari hunting style lady, preferably over 40, to love forever. Please Reply to Box No 2117

GAY MALE 21, seeks normal, intelligent non-scene chap (Notts/Leics) Photo apprec. Please Reply to Box No 2112

TIRED OF single supplements? Intelligent, independent, n/s, 20-36yr old sought by tall, slim, fun & experience seeking 29yr old for friendship on Far East Holiday, Jan 96. Photo would be nice. Reply Box 1897

VERY HANDSOME professional man 34, tall, fit, slim, dark hair, green eyes, warm smile and usually very modest. Educated, honest, friendly, romantic but tend to work too hard seeks distraction from a lovely lady who is also looking for lasting romance. London/ Surrey/ Hampshire/Anywhere. Please Reply to Box No 1736

VERY Successful businessman, tall, slim, kind and easy going WLTM tallish, slim, attractive lady, n/s, age not important, but must be very smart. Photo please. Reply to Box No 1818

WILD man (hidden under Oxbridge education, lots silver hair) WLTM woman cyclist with aesthetic tastes for earthy and ethereal trysts and travel. Please Reply to Box No 1568.

ZAP me, colourful character, 40s, south Bucks based seeks attractive, sensuous playful female (30ish) who reads these columns backwards. Please Reply to Box No 1729.

LADIES It's simple - one Free call equals 800 very eligible men, plus an active social life at Close Encounters Cardiff, Bristol, Bath, Swindon, Salisbury. Call 0800 141 141 Now.

LADIES Why call long distance? Close Encounters Sussex, Kent, Surrey, London, has an abundance of eligible men. Call free 0800 141 121.

LAWYER hard-headed but soft-hearted, forties, seeks graduate/professional female, 30's-40's, of warmth with keen sense of humour, who is also not enjoying the return to single life. Children not a problem. London area. Photo please. Reply to Box No 1860

LONDON BASED Banker, 51 years young, seperated, grown up children, too busy to frequent wine bars to look for Mrs Right, WLTM attractive lady with GSOH for fun, friendship and perhaps more. Please reply with photo to Box No 1748

MANAGING DIRECTOR 49, 6ft 2ins, slim, dark-haired, presentable, divorced no children, based Chelsea, seeks genuinely attractive, interesting, stylish lady, 28-48, who is fun company to share a good lifestyle including dining out, travel, weekends away etc. Do write with photo to Box No 1943

MR, generous, outgoing, solvent, homo erectus, tall dark and wholesome in perfect working order. You, attractive, slim and smoothly sensuous, broad minded woman, with own means and healthy regard for finance, preferably 28-38, n/s, for friendship and fun. Photo and chatty letter a must. Please Reply to Box No 1863.

MUCH travelled successful businessman, tall, 6'3, considered good looking, 50 years old, very fast wit and fun to be around. Minimum baggage. London based. Would like to hear from truly attractive ladies up to 40. Photo essential. Box No 1897.

MY Cancerian darling, public school lady, me same sign and background. Longing for you, bis, 60s, you I hope 45-55, SOH, n/s, maximum 5'6. Please may I have your photo. Please Reply to Box No 1887.

NICE man 39 and boy 10 would like to create lasting partnership with clever, sane, n/s and creative woman. SW London/ Surrey. Please Reply Box 1794.

ORIENTAL LADY Looking into your almond eyes all my yearning will subside. Romantic gentleman (successful postgrad, 35, 5'7, fair, various interests from art to exercise) is searching for his true love. Please reply! NW England + beyond. Please Reply to Box No 1966

OSTENSIBLY James Fox: really James Dean with James Garner tendencies, own velvet voice, impish smile invites pouty lipped, saucer eyed, voluptuous vamp with Helen Mirren mind (ono) for sharing his 55th Xmas et seqq. (West Lond). Box 1181.

PART time lover, friend, mate? I live in London, you live in the country, let's spend weekends together in London and or the country. Golf, tennis, good food, theatre, movies etc. You: very attractive, 38-45, great figure, good personality, very feminine, stylish. I am the male equivalent and tall. You won't be disappointed, the sky's the limit. Reply to Box No 1714.

PETER PAN 50., n/s, fit, active and adventurous who is more at home in a wet suit than pinstripes seeks Wendy 38+ for happiness. Chatty letter please Reply to Box No 1690

PROFESSIONAL male (47), lives Bucks, works central London. Interested in wining, dining travel walking seeks slim lady 30+ with similar interests. Please Reply to Box No 1677.

SEEKING the right cultured lady wanting to combine professional life with raising a family with similar successful n/s batchelor aged 50 who lives and works in central London. Please Reply to Box No 1773

SINCERE Slim, man 51, well travelled, wide interest, WLTM female, n/s, slim, intelligent, caring, honest, homely, WSOH, under 38 in Essex/London. Photo Please. Reply Box 1683

SMART successful sporty generous, GSOH, fun loving, bashful Scot, 39, living in Sussex wants to enjoy life with someone with reciprocal qualities. Looking forward to Christmas and a new year. Reply to Box 1669.

STRONG, loyal, faithful, handsome, batchelor country dweller needs a girlfriend for fun and friendship & maybe more. 20-30 years old. Slim, fit, petite (under 5'5") pretty, understanding & honest. I'm 37 own business travel a lot & generally have 2 tickets! I go to lots of beautiful places and would like to share these with you. Photo essential. Write soon. Please Reply to Box No 1949.

SURREY 42, self employed, insolvent, divorced smoker with absolutely no wit or savoire faire. WLTM complete opposite thirty something lady. Please Reply to Box No 1967.

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We would advise readers and advertisers to exercise caution when giving out personal details. This will be respected by genuine respondents.

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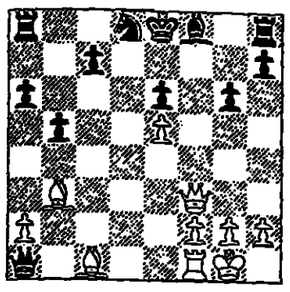
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CHESS

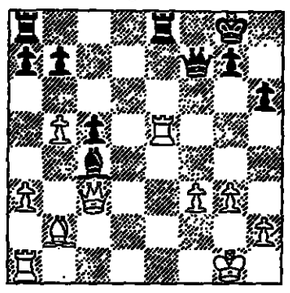
by Raymond Keene

This week I deal with several readers' queries about critical positions from the world title clash between Kasparov and Anand. This diagram shows a variation from the 10th game.



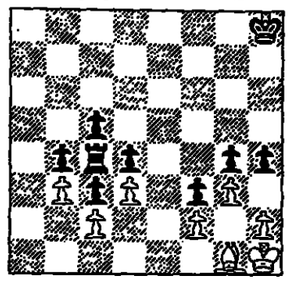
Here White can simply capture the black rook on a8, but Kasparov, in his notes, indicated that the continuation 1 Qf6 is stronger. If then 1 . . . Rg8 2 Bg5 Qd4 3 Rd1, winning. Also strong is 1 . . . Rg8 2 Bxe6. Peter Wylie of Devon, therefore, suggested that Black would do better to ignore the attack on his rook with 1 Qf6 Qd4 2 Qxh8 Qh4. However, White can then maintain his very powerful initiative with 3 Qg8 Qe7 4 Bh6. Now Black is completely tied down as 4 . . . Qf7 is met simply by 5 Qh8 and 4 . . . Nf7 5 Bxf8 Qxf8 6 Qxh7 leaves Black with a ragged and disorganised position which he will ultimately lose.

On October 21, I published a Winning Move puzzle based on a variation from game 4.



The solution was 1 Rf5, where White wins material, since 1 . . . Qxf5 fails to 2 Qxg7 checkmate, while 1 . . . Qg6 allows 2 Qxc4+. George Reith of Midlothian has, however, suggested the ingenious defence 1 . . . Re3. This comes close to saving Black, since 2 Qxe3 Qxf5 is relatively harmless. But after 1 Rf5 Re3 2 Rxf7 Rxc3 3 Rxb7, followed by Rxg7+, White maintains his advantage. Still, it was a brilliant defensive suggestion.

I have been sent the following puzzle by schoolboy Matthew Partridge of London SE12. It is dedicated to his recently deceased grandmother, Elizabeth Gunn. Black to play and mate in six.



The composer has allowed himself a certain licence by imprisoning White's bishop on g1 but the basic variations are still attractive. They are: (a) 1 . . . h3 2 dxc4 d3 3 cxd3 c2 4 d4 c1Q 5 d5 Qf1 6 d6 Qg2 mate.

Or (b) 1 . . . h3 2 bxc4 b3 3 cxb3 c2 4 b4 c1Q 5 b5 Qf1 6 b6 Qg2 mate.

Finally this week, Dr P. Vicary of Weybridge, Surrey has expressed interest in the game Janowski-Tarrasch, Ostend 1905, which I published on October 25. Dr Vicary points out that no pieces in this game were taken or exchanged until move 22, and asks which game between top players went the furthest before any piece or pawn was removed from the board. This is, indeed, intriguing, and I invite readers' answers. A copy of my book *The Times Winning Chess* to the reader who sends me details of the grandmaster game which went furthest before a capture was made. Entries to reach me by Friday, December 29.

WINNING MOVE

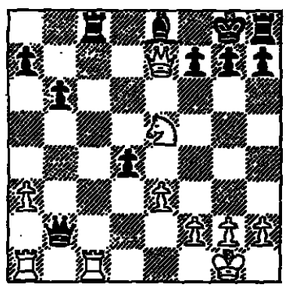
By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Geir - Olafsson, Reykjavik 1953. White clearly has good tactical chances, but must act quickly as Black has threats himself. What is White's strongest continuation?

Send your answers on a postcard to *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday will win a British Chess Magazine publication. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Solution to last week's competition: 1 Qf8+

Last week's winners: B Davies, Shirley, Solihull, W Midlands; J Leslie, Brimington, Chesterfield; A Newman, Old Portsmouth, Hants.



PUNCHLINE

READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon, right. The cartoon, from the Punch library, includes the contemporary caption.

The cartoon will be printed again next week on the Games page with a caption selected from those submitted.

Send caption suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to: Cartoon caption 85, Weekend Games Page, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

The editor's decision is final.

The closing date for entries is Wednesday, December 6.



The Idealist. "AH! TELL ME, GENTLE SHEPHERD, WHERE IS THY PIPE?"
The Realist. "LEFT IT AT 'OOME, MISSY, 'CAUSE I AIN'T GOT NO BACCY."



"Really, father, this Beatlemania is getting rather out of hand."

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by Howard Lions of Northwood

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

ANTIMONY
a. Contradiction
b. Poison metal
c. A savoury herb

HAMADRYAD
a. A tree nymph
b. A snake
c. A baboon

DEMOPHOBE
a. A right-wing zealot
b. A mass panic
c. A dreader of crowds

ULTRONEOUS
a. Vengeful
b. Blaming
c. Off-the-cuff

Answers on page 17

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

BORIS SCHAPIRO, the bridge correspondent of *The Sunday Times*, still plays a strong game at the age of 86. He was West on this hand, from the Spring Foursomes earlier this year.

Dealer South — Love all, IMP's

	♠Q974 ♥Q10884 ♦5 ♣1063	
♠K65 ♥K75 ♦1093 ♣A842	N W E S	♠832 ♥2 ♦KQJ764 ♣J97
	♠AJ10 ♥AJ93 ♦A82 ♣KQ5	

Contract: Four Hearts by South.
Lead: ten of diamonds.

South opened 2NT and after a Stayman inquiry became the declarer in Four Hearts. The declarer won the diamond in hand and ruffed a diamond. He continued with the ten of hearts, ducked all round, and played another heart. When East showed out the declarer played the jack of hearts.

Boris won and continued the attack by playing another diamond. This was good play — Boris could see that the spade suit was breaking and he wanted to attack North's entry before the declarer had established the spades.

Declarer ruffed the diamond in dummy and played a spade to the jack. Boris smartly ducked again. Now the declarer could make the contract by playing ace and another spade, but he was nervous of running into a spade ruff — remember, Boris still had a heart left. So the declarer played a third round of trumps to dummy's queen and a second spade to the ten.

Boris won and exited with a spade. Now the declarer had no entry to dummy's thirteenth spade, and he had to lose two club tricks in the end-game to go one down. If Boris had taken either of his major-suit kings at the first opportunity the declarer would have had an easy ride.

You can see Boris in the 1996 Macallan International Bridge Pairs Championship in London at The White House Hotel, Regent's Park, on January 24, 25 and 26.

The strong entry includes the three pairs from the American team that won this year's Marlboro Bermuda Bowl (Meckstroth and Rodwell, the 1995 winners of the Macallan; Hamman and Wolff; and Nickell and Freeman). The Marlboro Venice Cup (the women's championship) winners will be represented by Sabine Zenkel and Daniela von Arnim (Germany). European champions Lauria and Versace (Italy) will be playing. Great Britain is represented by Nicola Smith and Pat Davies, Jason and Justin Hackett, Tony Forrester and Andrew Robson, and Boris Schapiro with Irving Gordon. The most charismatic pair is Omar Sharif and Zia Mahmood. There are also pairs from Canada, France, India and South Africa.

● *Tickets are available from The Macallan Box Office, 31 Queens Road, Mortlake, London SW14 8PH. For information ring 0181-878 5844.*

COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

by Tim Wapshott

ONE OF the latest interactive adventures gracing our screens is Interplay's **Frankenstein**, starring Tim Curry as the Swiss student doing a good line in recycling spare body parts. This is a glossy point-and-click tale which is vividly set in Frankenstein's castle and in which you adopt the role of his odd-job monster. You must cover all floors of the isolated building to hunt out clues and solve a series of riddles.

What you see is nicely atmospheric, although the sound effects don't go far enough to enhance the mood. The biggest drawback, though, is the game's speed as you click and shuffle your way around. It is all terribly laboured.

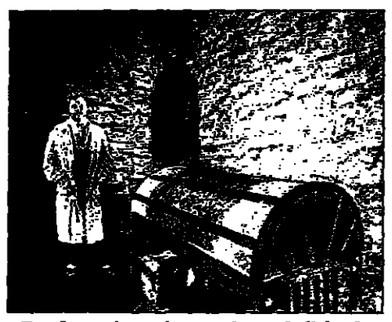
Just what Mary Shelley, Frankenstein's creator, would make of it all is anyone's guess. A fine line from her novel (published when she was 20 in 1818) might do the trick: "Everywhere I see bliss, from which I alone am irrevocably excluded." However, what Curry does brings to the role is a tongue-in-cheek sense of humour. "Cat got your tongue?" he asks you, his dumb creation, when you first come to life.

To be frank, Interplay's better thriller at the moment is **Stonekeep**. This is a 3D dungeon runaround overloaded with dank atmosphere. It is a solid newcomer to the genre, and 50 readers have a chance to reserve themselves a PC CD-Rom demo disc of the entire first level, on a first come, first served basis. Write, giving your name and address, to *Times*/Stonekeep Discs, THP, 45 Islington Park Road, London N1 1QB.

From possible terror to **Screamer**, Virgin Interactive's car-racing game. Promising all the "tension, speed and atmosphere of an arcade racer", the game offers a choice of cars and tracks, but performs poorly. Car control is slack and the graphics just about grind along.

It is similar in style to **Daytona USA**, which boasts some of the best racing graphics around. This game — on PC, CD-Rom and Sony's 32-bit PlayStation console — quickly fires up the guilt each time you become the cause of another pile-up on the track. The crash effects are truly nerve-jarring.

Over in the Sega camp, the racing diamond **Virtua Racing** is being re-released for Sega's 32-bit Saturn console. A 16-bit Mega Drive classic of long standing, it is sure to be another superior racer because it already has a golden game engine before any tinkering and fine-tuning of the graphics.



Frankenstein: a glossy point-and-click tale

IF CONSOLE racing games are a tad too frantic, Europress has something much less noisy in **Gone Fishin'**. This PC CD-Rom takes you fresh-water fishing on Lake Ontario's Bay of Quinte. It covers everything you need to know to hook prize catches — from tackle, bait and angling tactics to fish behaviour. The programme includes a fish finder to give you the lowdown on the eight species that you might catch, such as pike, walleye and bass.

The game element takes you to the warm-water lake where you must seek out one of 20 prime fishing areas along 50 miles of shoreline. Should you land a whopper, you have the choice of keeping your catch or photographing it before putting it back into the water. To pick up further hints to improve your skills, you must encounter the guru of fishermen everywhere, the old guy in the fishing lodge. He doesn't mention it, but he's sure to have heard the one all fisherman seem to tell about the two fish in a tank. The one asks the other, "How do you drive this thing?".

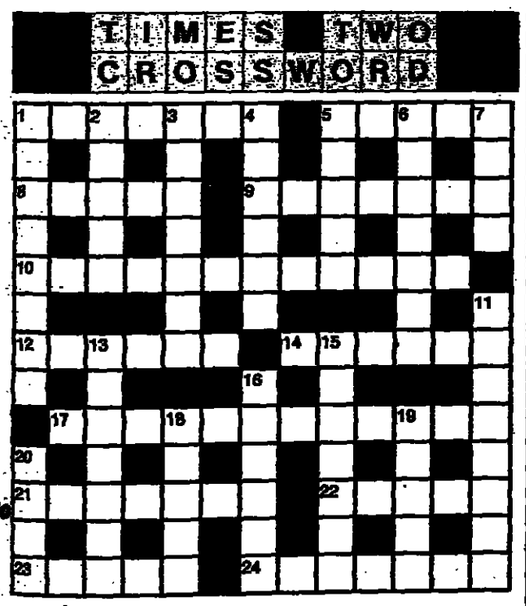
Drinking like a fish is a sport for some — and they should get plenty from **The Wines of France**, the non-politically correct title of the minute. This tells you everything you shouldn't want to know about delicious French wines and the country's wine industry. Credited as a co-production of "The EC media program's Media Investment Club" and Philips Media, the title charts the best vintage years for the 12 wine regions and provides a glossary of terminology.

In the "Food and Wine" chapter, three French chefs marry a variety of wines to menus and spell out their reasons; "Geography" explores the wine regions with tours; "Wine Cellar" boasts a database of thousands of French wines and, finally, "Wine Lore" explains the nitty-gritty of the art of wine: how to decipher French wine labels and other useful tips to help you to focus more clearly on the right choices.

You also receive a fine helping of wine-tasting hints. To put newfound wisdom to the test, not a few bottles of precious nectar but a quick game called **Wine Steward**. Amusing — but no substitute for the real thing.

"It's a naive domestic Burgundy without any breeding, but I think you'll be amused by its presumption." James Thurber (1937).

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 642

ACROSS
1 Special anniversary (7)
5 Bread maker (5)
8 Repasts (5)
9 Get nearer (5,2); detailed view (5-2)
10 Silly legend (3,5,4)
12 Speech in praise (6)
14 Position, posture (6)
17 High fashion (5,7)
21 Guilty party (7)
22 Beg; argue in court (5)
23 Lighter; one's equal (5)
24 Young Harry Percy (*Henry IV*) (7)

DOWN
1 Large (esp Scout) rally (8)
2 Inoffensive, vacuous (5)
3 Having permanence (7)
4 Go beyond (6)
5 Lift, encourage (5)
6 Russian citadel (7)
7 Entranced, absorbed (4)
11 Guard; supporter (8)
13 Publication: tiny bit of tree (7)
15 Mus. instrument; announce loudly (7)
16 A drink; to crush (6)
18 The Jewish law (5)
19 Exhaust (3,2)
20 Swindling scheme (*slang*) (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 641
ACROSS: 5 Effigy 7 Ulster 9 Marauder 11 Herd 12 Sited 13 Admire 15 Creepy 17 Tongs 19 Wren 20 Together 22 Risqué 23 Reason
DOWN: 1 Hermes 2 Byrd 3 Furred 4 Grid 6 For starters 8 The Trenches 10 Undue 14 Mitre 16 Patter 18 Spring 19 Word 21 Gird

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THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No. 3334: Every Second Counts by Bureaucat

THE author of this puzzle requires you to highlight his name and three different addresses in the grid. The author initially and a kingly quotation can consistently be found (in less than a minute?!) from the one superfluous word in each clue in order.

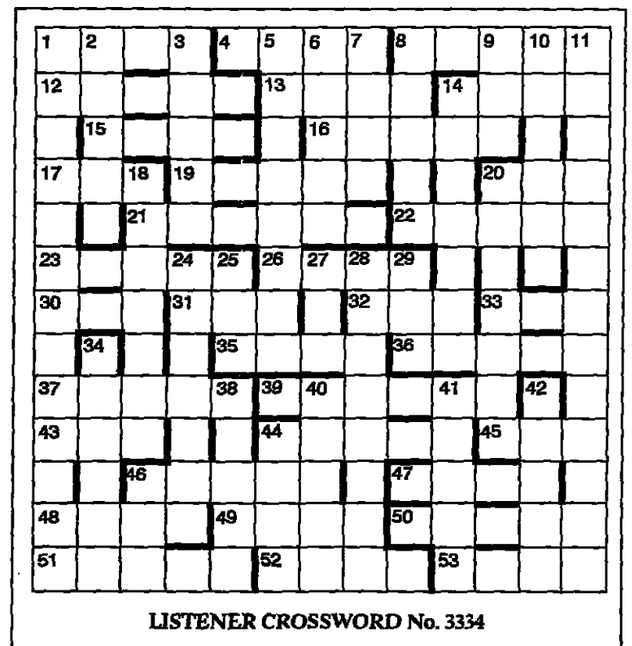
ACROSS
1 Stop long or short person losing head (4)
4 Late Turner, perhaps, with one red misty schooner at front (4)
8 Oil well owner of little pot (5)
12 Faultless plan cheers gloomy old house steward (5)
13 Bar to return of teller of tales (4)
14 Hero spurned in Polynesia Island University (4)
15 Cane disturbed teenage menace needed to face (4)
16 I objectively twice take number twenty displaying ability to recall (5)
17 Possibly producer of quarantine restrictions missing violent criminal becomes killer on large scale (3)
19 Cliff or Deep Throat (5)
20 Albatross would make this one of four invited (3)
21 Straight type of woody agaric contained hooded upper lip (6)
22 Clean French River dropping in scale at first; that's favoured by conservationists (5)
23 Product of one in unproductive line (5)
26 Every long astragal back to front (4)
30 Pool upset — thirteen nothing (3)
31 Nuclear switchgear could make this high possibly; it would usually be hot (3)
32 Tailless 36 bird missing 36 gathering (3)
33 Make tight without just more than one over the eight also cross (3)
35 Possibly imitation at end plus superior in middle (4)
36 Author of little red book's religious teaching people found blasphemous in Antipodes (5)
37 At least two hundred sen that is money taken by one responsible for kidnapped relation (5)
39 Internal combustion engine containinng sheared nut that could cause spluttering and coughing (6)
43 Camel-hair coat found in Egyptian shopping bag (3)
44 Community thought nothing excluded American dream (5)
45 Scottish jackdaw holding English parrot in 36 parts (3)
46 One will exhaust back (5)
47 Camp of two enemies changing sides (4)
48 Oxford Street row on this service telling of independent schools (4)
49 Sickness (not sea) added to Manchester United sloth (4)
50 Collection of tipsters' tips after market close without fail (5)
51 Scottish anglers do take fish like salmon (5)
52 Shakespeare's noted kinsman friendly when following prince (4)
53 Mixed material without pitch in bus shelter (4)

DOWN
1 Hypersensitive traumatic discharge is not once welling in natural surroundings I see (13)
2 Small flaws in glass egg; could be crocodile (5)
3 Curved rise could be accentuated in French region (5)
5 In piece finger new bugle calls for instance (8)
6 Chinese nettle dog in letter to mistress (5)
7 Dynasty odd couple stink (4)
8 Mock one stumbling on run (5)
9 Fashion common shoe (3)
10 Transpose in cheeky banter paste for old gems (6)
11 Fantastic clue about replacing very good Scottish presumption (13)
14 Failure to recall rising first class graduate institution including component of 37 (7)
18 I studied Latin before main artists' quarter (7)
20 Spangled frog dry for two days becomes gled (7)
24 Bounds about opera, hangs about soubrette (7)
25 Jugged hare could be cooked with new stuffing (3)
27 Drawing arrear topless means of transport (3)
28 Pleasant food allays flu upset (8)
29 Turkish bath lacking silent heater becomes imposition (3)
34 Finally dispose of unpleasant smell contained by using graphite in bath (6)
38 Swig of whisky to wit my royal tipple (5)
40 Religious associate planted holy fig tree (5)
41 Freedom advanced first and last for universal description of creator, in his wisdom, of world republic (5)
42 Cover interior with metal three times not once (5)
44 Monkey with account one short of five hundred (4)
46 In the company of reformed drinkers I nurse headache (3)

R	L	H	S	I	E	T	U	R	A	G	H	
P	L	U	S	A	R	E	A	T	R	L	V	
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N	A	R	K	I	P	V	R	E	D	Z	A	
T	A	G	N	S	T	E	R	A	C	I	L	
D	G	E	L	O	I	V	B	N	M	Y	P	
E	R	G	C	R	N	I	L	O	O	L	I	
K	M	R	I	L	A	A	K	A	M	E	P	
N	E	U	D	D	E	N	O	P	E	G	E	
W	I	E	A	S	V	R	L	C	O	N	E	

Solution to No. 3331: Polymath by Ix
The extraneous words gave the quotation:
"I have taken all knowledge to be my province."

The winner is Mrs D. Waller of Rayleigh, Essex. The runners-up are F.K. Lyness of Richmond, Surrey, and A.J. Moore of Sheffield.



LISTENER CROSSWORD No. 3334

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ADDRESS.....

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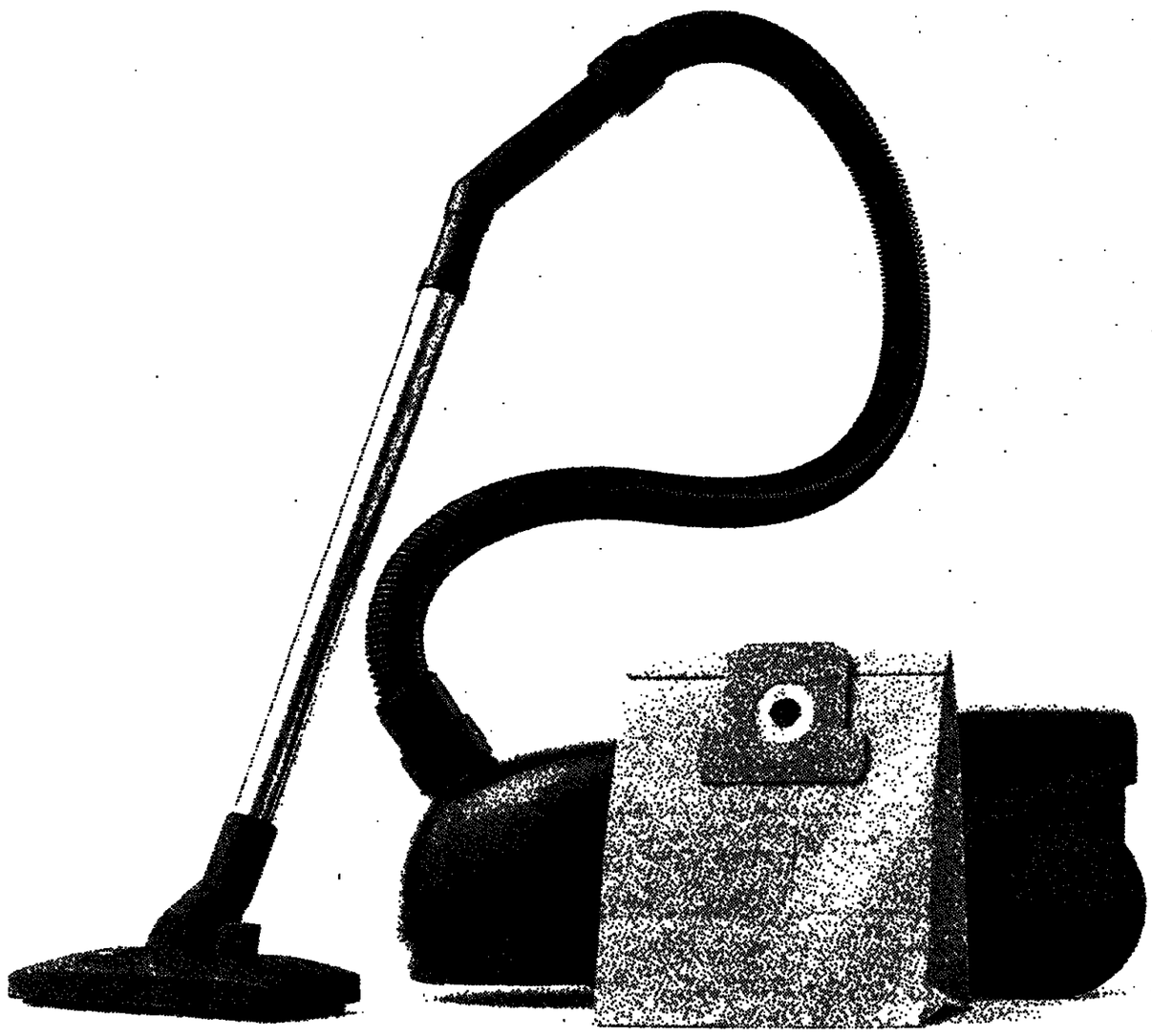
Cut out and send the completed crossword and coupon above to The Listener Crossword No. 3334, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 6HE. Entries must be received by Thursday, December 14.

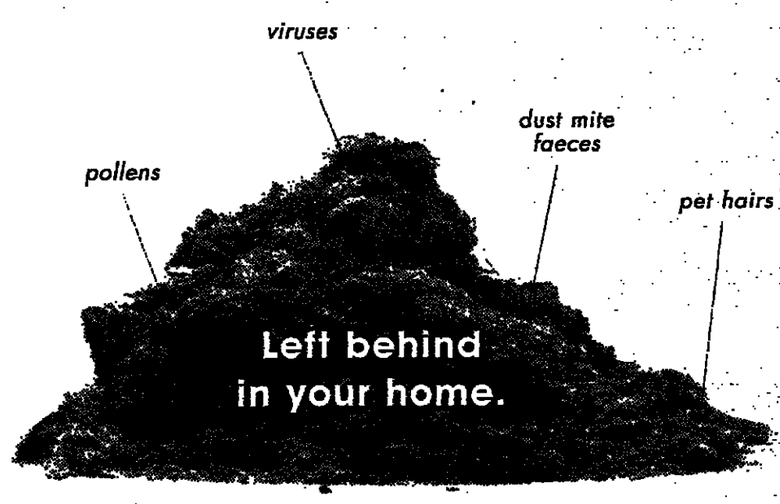
The winner will receive: The Cambridge Encyclopedia, the most up-to-date and comprehensive one-volume encyclopedia available, with over 36,000 entries; The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language, a highly illustrated format embracing every aspect of the English language in one volume; and The Cambridge Guide to Literature, covering all the major writers and movements in literature written in English up to the present. Two runners-up will receive The Cambridge Guide to Literature.

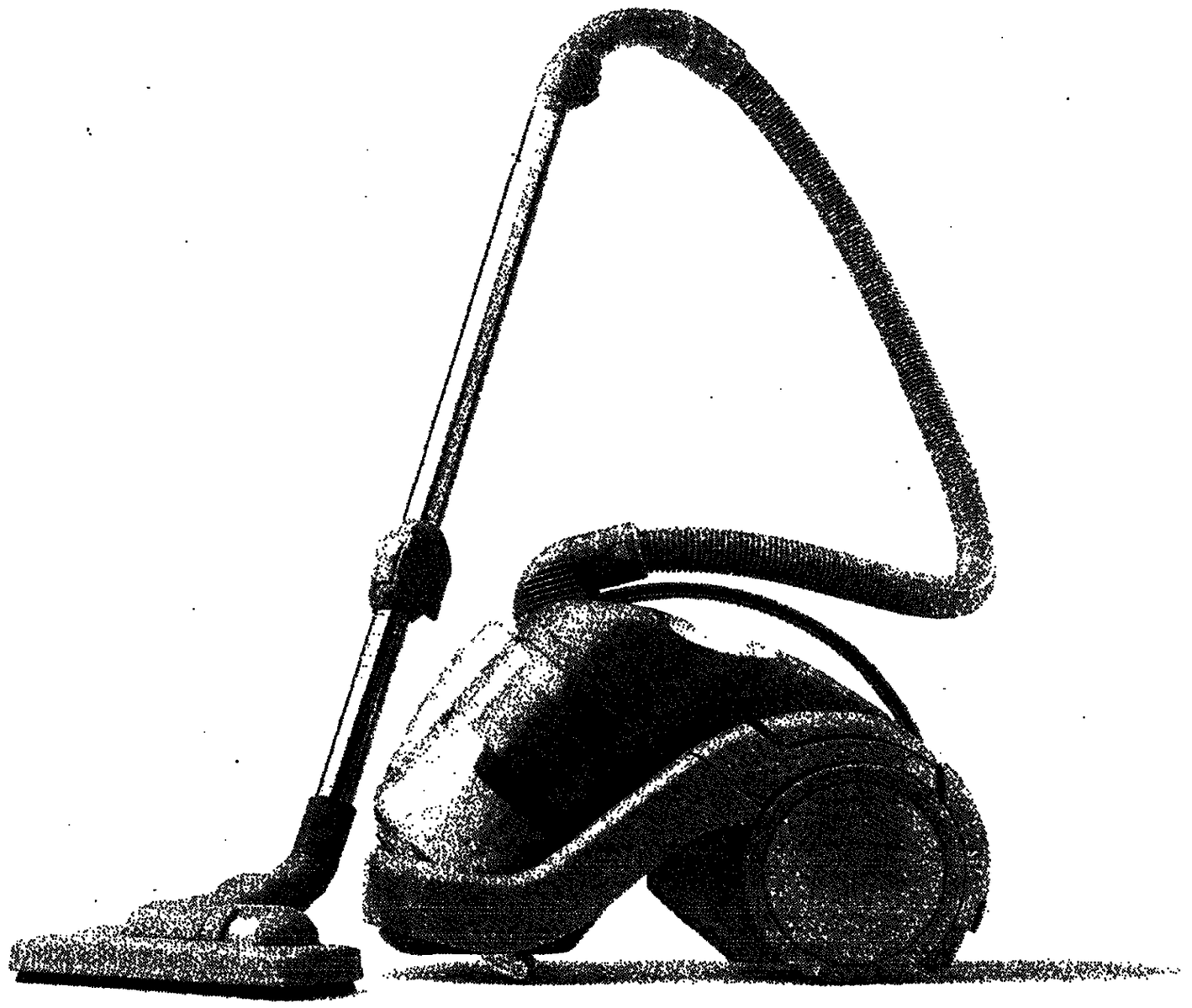


Cambridge University Press, the oldest printing and publishing house in the world, issues some 1,500 new publications in over 190 countries each year, encompassing virtually every subject seriously studied in the English-speaking world.

The evidence against vacuum cleaners with bags keeps piling up.







Month after month, the Dyson bagless vacuum cleaner removes twice the amount of health-threatening dust and allergens that the average bag vacuum cleaner manages.

Bag vacuum cleaners perform inefficiently because they quickly lose suction as the pores inside the bag clog with dust. This reduction can happen so rapidly that, after just one room, suction can drop to as low as 50% – and keep going down. This means that most people, even in the course of one month's vacuuming, use cleaners which operate at a mere fraction of their suction. ❁ Tests were carried out under normal conditions in average family homes. ❁ Dyson vacuum cleaners have eradicated the bag and its problems by using centrifugal force to remove harmful allergens and minute dust particles (as small as 0.1 microns). ❁ Dyson vacuum cleaners are available from all major electrical retailers. ❁ For further information, call Sue, Dawn or Michelle in Dyson Sales on 01666 827200.

DYSON
dual cyclone
TECHNOLOGY

هكذا من الاصل



Kiki Dee strikes a pose at the wheel

Page 10



Dinosaurs give way to living roaring history



Page 5

SATURDAY DECEMBER 2 1995



Three cars, nothing to pay: Paul and Wendy Tuohy with their children Christy and Ewan and the Volkswagens which no longer need road tax discs. "We were absolutely astonished. The Budget usually means we lose financially"

The Chancellor's very happy family

Kevin Eason and **Alan Copps** on the £420 Budget road tax winners

While the rest of the nation's motorists are counting the cost of dearer petrol and additional car tax, Paul and Wendy Tuohy are preparing to spend the extra £8 a week the Chancellor has just given them.

For they escape paying road tax — raised to £140-a-year in the Budget — on all three of their cars. While the exemption for cars more than 25 years old has been hailed by museums and classic car clubs as a great step in preserving automotive history, the Tuohys are a rare example of a family for whom it simply means cheaper transport.

Their three Volkswagens are among the 150,000 cars affected by the change, as are a number of eminently-collectable recent classics, such as the Ford Capri, "the car you always promised yourself", introduced in 1969, the Mini Cooper, the Rover 2000 and the Jaguar XJ6.

The tax break was greeted with delight by Lord Montagu, for whose National Motor Museum at Beaulieu, in Hampshire, it adds up to £42,000 a year. It might sound like small change to people at the Ferrari and Bentley end of the market, but it's a big slice of the motoring account for people like the Tuohys.

"We were absolutely astonished," says Wendy. "We had no idea this was going to happen and just kept wondering what was going on. The Budget usually means we have to lose financially, not gain this much unexpectedly."

The Tuohy family of cars is a collection that earns its daily keep. Their little blue Volkswagen Beetle, made in 1956, has been a bargain from the day Paul paid just £150 for it when he was 18, still running along happily even though the mileage counter has clicked round to take up all six digits at 106,000 miles. Wendy uses the car to do her rounds as a community nurse and for picking up the couple's two children from school.

They also have a 1959 VW Camper van in which Paul, now 31, commutes daily, tootling about ten miles along the A2 from their home in Kent with a bicycle in the back. Then he parks and pedals the rest of the way into central London, where he works as a charity fundraiser. The Camper is also the transport for the annual holiday to France, loaded with children, luggage and beach balls.

Their one motoring indulgence is a soft-top, a white convertible that still turns heads and just sneaked in under the Chancellor's 25-year rule. The 1969 Beetle Cabriolet only cost £1,500 when Paul bought it in 1985, so it has not only paid for itself, it is not now even going to cost him the price of a tax disc.

Paul says: "I was listening to the Chancellor and couldn't believe my ears for a moment when he announced the exemption. It obviously means a lot to us as a family with three cars that now escape tax. We could enjoy more Budgets like that."

> 'They did not realise how large the old car lobby is'

Another saving of £420 a year will be made by David Selby, who runs the Classic Car Auction List, the little black book of prices. He runs a 1966 Volvo P1800, a 1965 Vauxhall Cresta and a mammoth 1948 Hudson. "I think the Government didn't realise how large and vociferous the old car lobby is," he said.

The Chancellor introduced the exemption after rejecting a scheme for continuous licensing that had provoked a wave of protests from the classic car lobby that caught even Whitehall's most seasoned civil servants, used to being bombarded with petitions and complaints, by surprise.

Tricia Pilkington, who runs the Totnes Motor Museum in Devon, had a 1,600-name petition ready last week but was told not to bother. She knew then something was on the way. "I gather they have had 20,000 letters of protest and more than 10,000 consultation papers were sent out. The Chancellor was in no doubt what a large section of the motoring population thought."

Kenneth Clarke was considering proposals for continuous licensing in an effort to crack down on the road tax evaders who cost the Treasury more than £160 million a year. But classic car enthusiasts feared that would mean they would have to tax their vehicles whether on the road or not.

So an owner with several cars in various stages of restoration, or who used a car for one annual outing to a veteran car rally, would have to pay full tax regardless. Now drivers just have to declare that their cars are "off the road" while owners of veterans don't have to bother with the issue of road tax at all.

Roche Bentley, chairman of the MG Owners' Club and of the Association of Classic Car Clubs, said: "It's brilliant news. It will cost the Government very little and gives a great boost to the classic car movement." The association represents 347 clubs, which together have about 500,000 members.

"There are a lot of people whose cars are not 25 years old yet, but the benefit will obviously increase. About 55 per cent of the 46,000 members of the MG Owners' Club will no longer pay tax on their cars."

Some motoring organisations complained that the tax exemption amounted to a "bangers' charter", encouraging the preservation of old cars which spew out more pollution. The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders was also critical. "The more environmentally-friendly we build cars, the more they get taxed. The opposite seems to be the case when it comes to very old cars. Where are we going wrong?" asked the SMMT's chief executive Ernie Thompson.

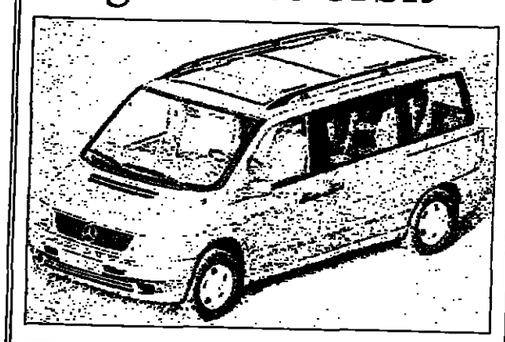
While the SMMT accepts that the pollution from cars 25 years and older — about 150,000 out of the 24.3 million on the road — is hardly significant, it is desperately opposed to anything that encourages the use of older cars when makers are striving to produce more environmentally-friendly products. In 1989 there were 5.5 million 10-year-old cars on the roads, now there are 7 million.

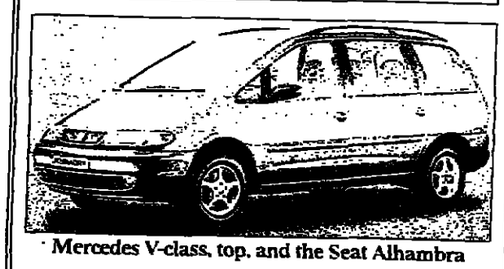
Graham Dymott, of the SMMT, said the organisation would continue to press for a "cash for scrap" subsidy of the type that has driven old cars off the roads and boosted new car sales in France, Spain and Ireland.

But the Environmental Transport Association, the "green" motoring organisation, says that would be a disaster because a quarter of all pollution caused by cars occurs during manufacture. It wants the money raised from car taxes ploughed back into alternative forms of transport.

Peter Barnard ..... **page 2**
Classic rally ..... **page 7**
Dr Dashboard ..... **page 8**

The space race goes into orbit

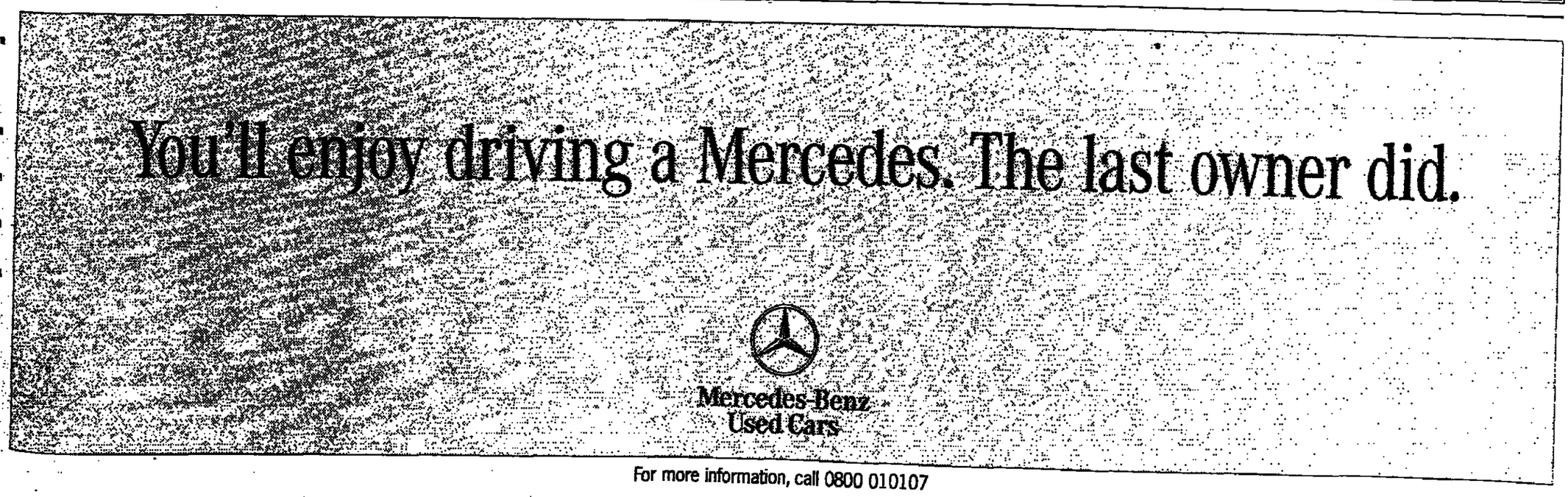




Mercedes V-class, top, and the Seat Alhambra

● The age of the people-mover, hailed as the family and leisure car of the future, is upon us. This week *CAR 95* was given a preview of the latest contender, the Mercedes-Benz V-class. At the same time, Vauxhall announced plans to import their own version, the Sintra, from the United States and Seat, the Spanish carmaker, said it will be importing the Alhambra, its own version, from the same Portuguese plant that makes the Ford Galaxy and Volkswagen Sharan.

SEE PAGE 3 FOR FULL STORY



For more information, call 0800 010107

AA GRIDLOCK GUIDE

● **LONDON**
The lights on London's official Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square will be switched on at 6.30pm on December 7. Traffic will be slow on all surrounding routes.
A40 Western Avenue, Acton. Major roadworks between Hilary Road in Acton and the Northern roundabout. Traffic reduced to two lanes each way
A10 Great Cambridge Road, Enfield. Major roadworks between Lee Road and Bury Street, with traffic reduced to a single lane each way.

● **SOUTH-EAST**
M4 Berkshire. Major roadworks and a contraflow between junctions 6 and 8/9 (Slough-Maidenhead) cause lengthy tailbacks daily.
M3 Surrey. Roadworks with lane closures in both directions between junctions 1 and 2.
A21 Kent. Roadworks and a contraflow on Sevenoaks bypass.
A5 Buckinghamshire. Roadworks and lane closures at Milton Keynes, between the Abbey Hill junction and the Kelly's Kitchen Roundabout.
A340 Hampshire. Roadworks with lane closures at the Town Centre west roundabout, Basingstoke.

● **SOUTH-WEST**
M32 Avon. Widening work continues on the link between junction 19 of the M4 and Bristol city centre, with lane closures and restrictions.
M5 Gloucestershire. Roadworks and a contraflow between junctions 11 and 12 (Cheltenham-Gloucester).
M5 Somerset. Bridge repairs with lane closures both ways between junctions 21 and 22.
A338 Wiltshire. Closed at Cholderton for replacement of a bridge.
A35 Dorset. Major roadworks continue between Morecombelake and Charmouth, with temporary traffic lights.

● **MIDLANDS AND EAST ANGLIA**
M6 West Midlands. Roadworks and a contraflow between junctions 5 and 6.
M50 Hereford & Worcester. Roadworks and lane closures in both directions between junctions 1 and 2 (Tewkesbury-Ledbury).
M1 Leicestershire. Roadworks and a contraflow between junctions 21 and 22 (Leicester).
A11 Cambridgeshire. Work on new dual carriageway continues, with restrictions between Stump Cross and Worsted Lodge.

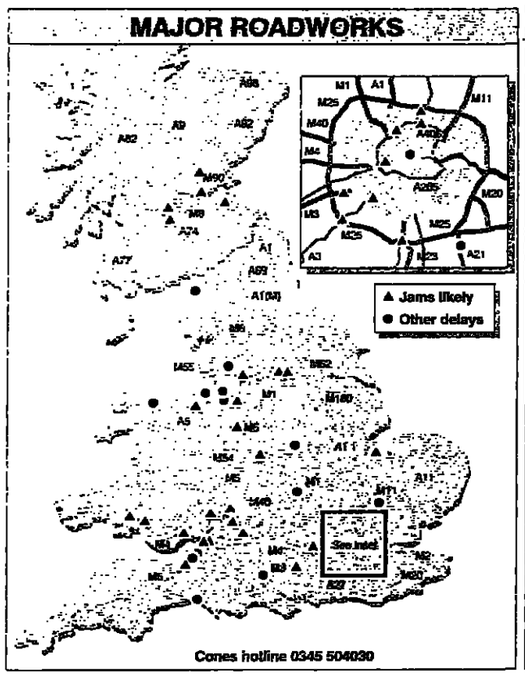
● **NORTH**
M1 West Yorkshire. Roadworks and a contraflow at the end of the motorway at junction 47.
M6 Cheshire. Widening work continues between junctions 20 and 22 (Lymm-Winwick). Northbound is reduced to two lanes at present, causing additional delays.
A639 West Yorkshire. Roadworks on Park Road, Pontefract at junction with Park Lane.
A595 Cumbria. Resurfacing work at Wigton with restrictions near the Red Dial junction.
A565 Merseyside. Major roadworks on Derby Road, Liverpool between Blackstone Street and Bankhall Street.
A56 Lancashire. Every weekend until Christmas, 8pm Friday to 6am Monday, Haslingden bypass closed southbound for roadworks at the Bent Gate roundabout.

● **WALES**
A449/A40 Gwent. Roadworks continue between Newport and Monmouth, with much of the route reduced to a single lane.
A465 West Glamorgan. Roadworks and a contraflow at the Glynneath interchange.
A48 West Glamorgan. Construction work with lane closures on all approaches to the Wychtree roundabout at Morriston.
A548 Clwyd. Roadworks and a contraflow between Oakenholt and Kelsterton.

● **SCOTLAND**
A749 Strathclyde. Dalmarnock Bridge in Glasgow closed southbound for roadworks.
M90 Fife. Roadworks and contraflow between junctions 1 and 2 (Admiralty-Masterton).
M90 Tayside: Major roadworks at junction 10 (Friarton Bridge).

● **NORTHERN IRELAND**
County Tyrone. Roadworks on Omagh bypass at junction with Derry Road.

MAJOR ROADWORKS



Cones hotline 0345 504030

Petrol up again, another rise in car tax . . . once more the hapless motorist is used as the Treasury's milch cow

Pouring fuel on our road rage

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



Peter Barnard

No wonder that Kenneth Clarke dealt with it in one sentence: "This year the tax disc for cars will rise by £5". He then rushed on to insist that honest motorists are irritated by road fund licence evaders, which we are, but not half as much as we are irritated at being the milch cow of the Treasury.

I shall not tire of saying that the road tax is an out-of-date anachronism just because the Chancellor refuses to listen. This week's £5 rise pays many times over for the abolition of the tax on cars more than 25 years old. It's enough to make one buy a Ford Capri.

That, plus the rise in petrol duty, means that people who use the roads are subsidising those who do not to a fantastic degree. I favour the exemption for classic cars, but the fact remains that the £42,000 a year Lord Montagu of Beaulieu will save is being made up by little ol' us.

The truth of the matter is that increasing the cost of motoring is an utterly cynical exercise. Nobody is going to give up driving when prices rise: how many smokers give up on grounds of cost? The unkindest cut of all is that the biggest burden falls on people who cannot possibly surrender their cars.

The Treasury gets £60 million for every 1p rise in the price of petrol, so the latest increase is worth the best part of £1 billion. The Government likes to give the impression that increasing fuel costs is part of some sort of moral crusade to make us use public transport. Absolute bunkum.



I live seven miles from the nearest train station and there are no buses between me and it. The nearest shop is a four-mile round trip. Down my way, children only encounter buses in picture books. Elderly carless people in the area rely on goodwill and taxis, whose fares will doubtless increase in line with fuel costs.

Thus do rural dwellers, many of whom can least afford to carry the burden, become the main victims of the painting-by-numbers economics which dictate that motoring costs automatically rise every year because the Treasury cannot think of a more imaginative policy. Rural dwellers are hostages to the Treasury with no hope of escape.

If the increases in fuel duty were used as a means to replace the road tax, long advocated in this space, then the rises would make sense and cut costs — a great chunk of the staff at DVLA could be given something more useful to do.

Instead, bureaucrats are sitting down to work out a better method of catching people who evade road tax, which sounds like another excuse to fill a room with desks, telephones and mini-mountains of A4.

Until the day dawns when some degree of intelligence is applied to these matters, one can only conclude that Mr Clarke, for all his avuncular asides, is merely a conventional Treasury animal spouting conventional Treasury mantras. Like so many before him, he has entered the Treasury and gone native.

MY FACE has never been much of an asset, least of all when someone makes the connection between it and this column. A reader did so this week, taking me to task for getting into a car after a pint of bitter.

Actually it was four hours afterwards, and he should know because he pulled the pint for me. But at least the incident shows that my modest weekly contribution to the Christmas drink-drive campaign is not going unnoticed, and I don't for a moment dispute that one drink a few hours before driving could impair one's ability at the wheel.

But I think draconian attitudes are counter-productive. If we want the taking of a single drink to constitute a drink-driving offence, then let us have a (sober) debate and perhaps change the law. Meantime a sense of proportion would be helpful.

Pump war 'risk to 50,000 jobs'

Independents say huge petrol price cuts by the giants will drive them out of business. **Alan Copps** reports

More than 6,000 petrol stations in Britain could be forced out of business over the next two years because they are caught in the crossfire of a fierce price war between Esso and the big supermarket companies, the Government has been told.

The Petrol Retailers' Association, which represents independent filling stations, is demanding an inquiry by the Monopolies and Merger Commission. It says the closure of petrol stations could result in 50,000 lost jobs.

The main target for the retailers' complaint is Esso's "PriceWatch" campaign which has seen fuel prices in North-East England and Central Scotland cut by up to 10p a litre since it began in September. The PRA claims that Esso and the supermarkets are selling fuel there at less than cost price, thus crossing the boundary between fair competition and "predatory pricing".

It also fears that PriceWatch will soon be extended. The average price for a litre of unleaded petrol before the Budget rise of 3.5p per litre in duty was 51.5p and for four-star 58.1p.

But the PRA has the unenviable task of convincing drivers that cheaper petrol prices may not be a good thing in the long term. It argues if independent local stations go out of business the major oil companies and supermarkets will be left with a virtual monopoly in many areas and be free to raise prices again. This, it says, has happened in France where prices are at least one-third higher than in Britain.

The "Pricewatch" campaign is Esso's attempt to win back its market share from companies such as Tesco and Sainsbury which are able to cut profit margins to the barest minimum because of the huge volumes of fuel they sell through petrol stations at hypermarket sites. Tesco has already pledged to keep its petrol at pre-Budget prices until Monday. Under "PriceWatch", Esso has promised it will match the lowest price within two miles of any of its filling stations.

> 'It has never been our intention to gain control of the market'

Bruce Petter, director of the PRA, said in some cases that promise had resulted in Esso filling stations selling fuel at below cost price, cheaper than the wholesale price it would quote to supply an independent retailer. Most independent retailers are locked into contracts to take supplies from Esso or one of the other major oil companies at an agreed price. There are 17,000 filling stations in Britain, about 10,000 of them independent retailers.

"While lower prices are of course good news for consumers, I am afraid the benefits will be shortlived. Bluntly with Esso apparently selling below cost, there is no way that independent retailers can compete with artificially low prices," said Mr Petter.

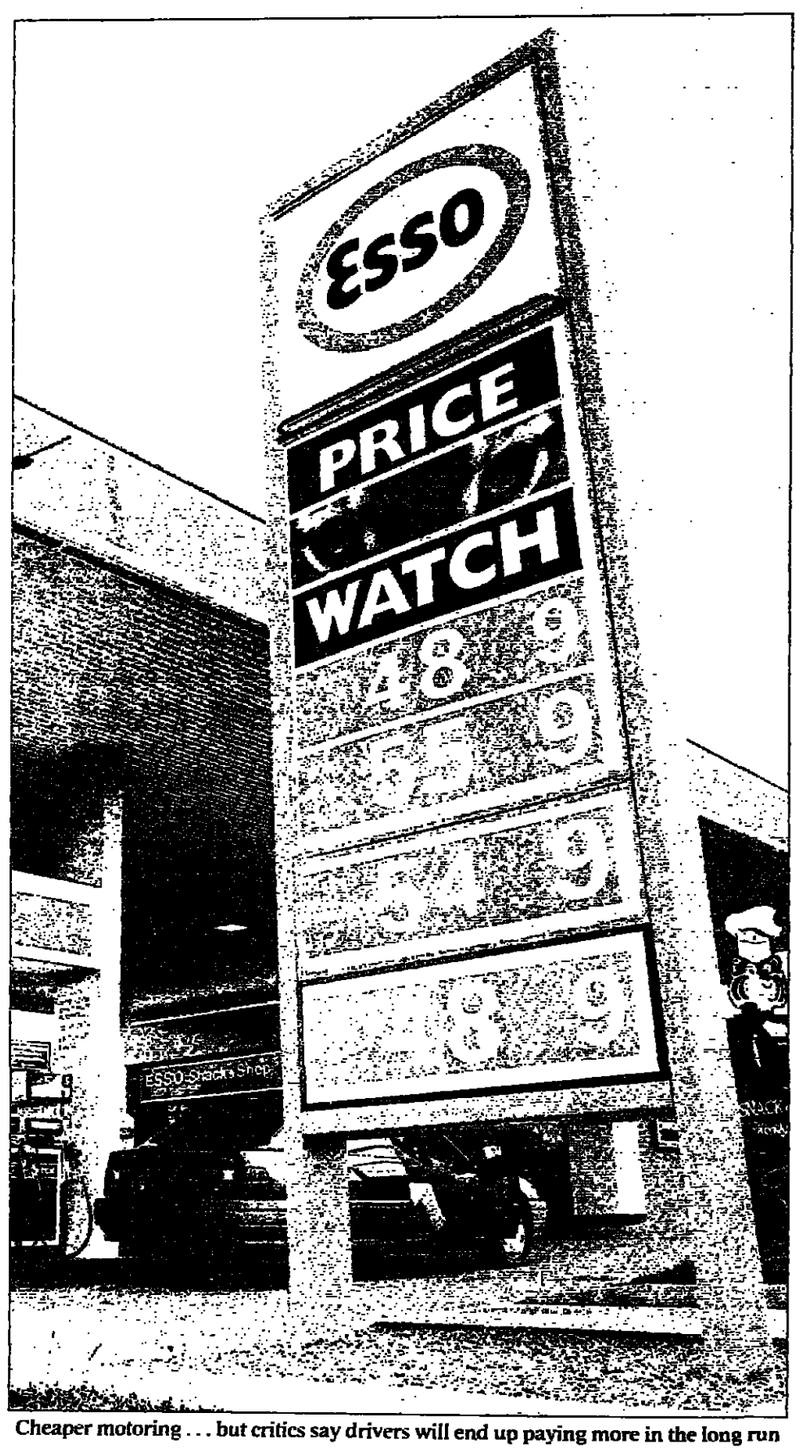
"When the competition goes and prices rocket up, motorists may well have to get used to driving longer distances to fill up. We are already seeing this sort of thing happen, particularly in rural areas, a development which has severe long-term financial and environmental implications."

Paul Jervis, vice-president of the PRA, quoted an example from Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, where, the day before the Budget, Esso was selling unleaded fuel at the huge Metrocentre shopping complex at 44.9p per litre. On that day the "Platts Oilgram" price, the industry's marker for trade supplies based on the Rotterdam spot market, was 40.31p per litre. But the Platts price does not include VAT. When 17.5 per cent VAT was deducted from the Metrocentre price, a litre comes out at 38.21p, 2.1p below cost price.

The PRA said one independent retailer, W. Eves of Whitby, had been forced to dismiss six employees and put a further ten on part-time working because of loss of sales.

Esso angrily refuted accusations of anti-competitive activity and said the price cutting was being led by other companies. The "PriceWatch" campaign would continue. "It has never been our intention that PriceWatch could give us any control of the market. What it will do is provide our customers with competitively priced, high quality fuels at conveniently located Esso stations," said Pete Szanto, the company's retail planning manager. He added that last year, before PriceWatch began, 1,000 petrol stations had closed as a result of the highly-competitive market.

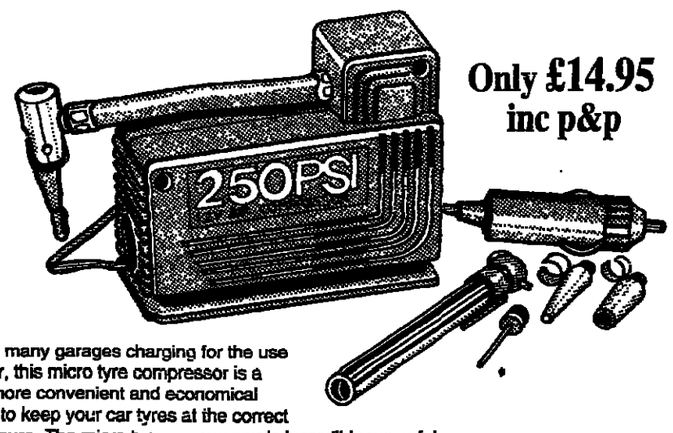
At the root of the argument is the huge inroads in the the fuel market made by the big supermarkets in recent years. In 1990 they accounted for just 5 per cent of fuel sales, with independents claiming 45 per cent and stations belonging to the major oil companies 50 per cent. Now the supermarkets have 25 per cent, the independents 35 per cent and the oil companies 40 per cent.



Cheaper motoring . . . but critics say drivers will end up paying more in the long run

THE TIMES
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After 26 years, a famous racing trophy can be presented again, says **Perry Cleveland-Peck**

Champion's cup comes out of hiding

One of motor racing's most famous trophies has been rediscovered after being lost for more than a quarter of a century.

The International Racing Driver of the Year Cup, traditionally awarded to the reigning Formula One world champion, was believed to have been lost 26 years ago when it's owners, Champion Spark Plugs, left their headquarters in Feltham, Middlesex, to make way for the expansion of Heathrow Airport and moved to new premises in the Wirral.

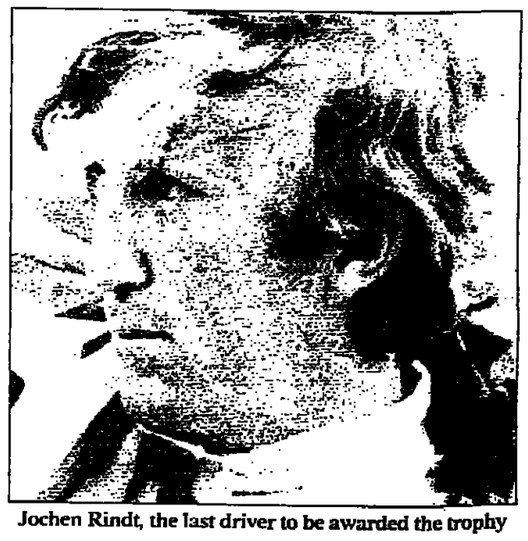
However, to the delight of Champion, the solid-silver 10-inch high cup was found hidden beneath a pile of old papers in a little-used safe at their present headquarters in Upton, Cheshire. The trophy, to be insured for £5,000, will be presented for the first time since 1970 at the Autosport Annual Awards Dinner at the Grosvenor Hotel in London tomorrow.

In the past the winner was chosen by readers of *Autosport* magazine from top drivers who had used Champion spark plugs. In practice it almost always went to the World Champion since almost all the leading racing marques used the company's products.

Under the traditional rules, Michael Schumacher who won this year's title for Benneton would qualify. But Damon Hill, the runner-up for Williams, and his teammate David Coulthard, who next year will be driving for McLaren, as well as rally driver Colin McRae who captured the World Championship title after his storming performance in last month's Network Q RAC Rally will all be attending the dinner.

The last holder of the cup was Jochen Rindt who received it shortly before his fatal crash at the Italian Grand Prix at Monza in 1970. Previous winners include many of Formula One's greatest drivers, such as Jim Clark, Jack Brabham, Graham Hill and Jackie Stewart.

Robin Shaw, Champion's marketing manager, said: "The cup was last seen in a cardboard box when everything was packed up at the old Feltham plant in 1970. It was assumed it had been lost in the move. For it to turn up now is wonderful news. It was part of motor racing's history and tradition and now it is back where it belongs."



Jochen Rindt, the last driver to be awarded the trophy

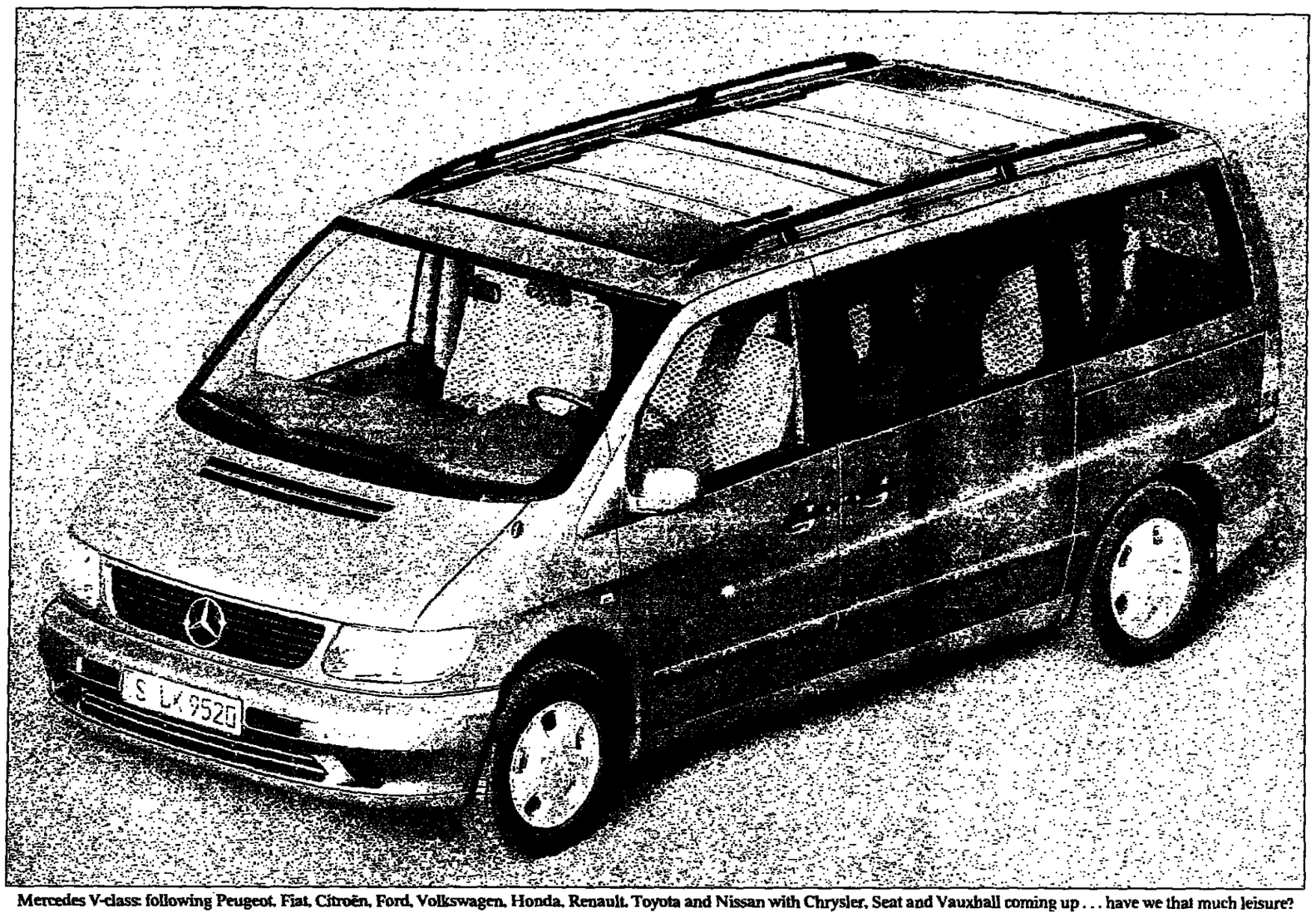
هكذا من الأصل

Kevin Eason sees the people-mover with the coveted three-point star, but still wonders about the luggage

Now Mercedes joins the space race



Room to spare . . . if you have the skills of Paul Daniels



Mercedes V-class: following Peugeot, Fiat, Citroën, Ford, Volkswagen, Honda, Renault, Toyota and Nissan with Chrysler, Seat and Vauxhall coming up . . . have we that much leisure?

Kirstin Hegner has no doubts . . . and she ought to know because she will have to shift 25,000 of them when Mercedes joins the pack of manufacturers trying to sell people-carriers when its V-class goes into the showrooms late next year.

Clearly, the men — and Kirstin, vice-president in charge of marketing the V-class — at Stuttgart do not share the scepticism of industry critics who fear that the people-carrier market could be overcrowded.

The V-class will come at the end of a long line when, within about a year or so, we will have been bombarded by models from Peugeot, Fiat, Citroën, Ford, Volkswagen and Honda. And we have still to come the Chrysler Voyager, one from Seat, and Vauxhall's own late entry, the Sintra. That's not to mention Renault, Toyota and Nissan, who pioneered this kind of vehicle.

The logic the manufacturers use is that more and more car buyers want vehicles that double up as weekday transport and weekend leisure buses to cope with kids, bikes, picnic hampers, the odd surfboard and a pile of luggage. According to Ms Hegner, 34-year-old leader of the V-class project, the European market for people-carriers will be about 450,000 annually by the turn of the century.

"The V-class is for middle-class families who need more versatility and space, who don't want to be confined by a big saloon or station wagon," she says.

But what about luggage space? Every vehicle launched so far is packed to the doors with six or seven seats, but there is nowhere to put so much as a washbag in the rear once the family is belted in. Not so in the V-class, Ms Hegner said as she allowed me a sneak preview this week in Stuttgart.

Mercedes' engineers reckon the V-class has more interior room than its competitors — a bigger luggage area than the mighty S-class even — and will swallow ten suitcases. Er, well it will . . . if you have a set of Mercedes designer luggage and the stacking abilities of Paul Daniels. And you won't even have the assistance of the lovely Debbie when you try balancing a whacking great suitcase stuffed with T-shirts and trainers on its end in the slimline boot area.

Far from pushing the market for people-carriers forward, Mercedes seems to have been content to join the line of vehicles so often scathingly described as "vans with windows". The V-class is, in fact, a van with windows, sharing much of the chassis, suspension and body with the company's recently-launched commercial van range. Both vehicles will be built on the same assembly lines in Spain.

So don't expect the same sort of leading edge technology that has marked other Mercedes models out from the pack. The V-class is very much like its competitors on first sight — except it has that coveted three-pointed star out front, of course. The driver cabin in the prototypes I could touch but not drive seemed unimaginative, although engineers have gone for a gearstick plugged directly into a steeply sloping fascia, instead of sprouting from the floor as usual.

> A good guess on price would be £25,000

The six- or seven-seat rear is roomy and — this is a first — they all get a three-point belt integrated into the seat, so when seats are switched or turned, passengers can still remain safe. Mercedes claims high levels of safety, a key point that will be latched on to by parents who want to transport their brood without bruising them.

The models on sale here will have sliding rear doors on both sides with standard equipment including driver and passenger airbags, anti-lock brakes, electronic traction control and air suspension. Power will come from a 2.3-litre petrol engine, initially with a 2.8-litre six-cylinder to come in 1997.

How much? For a specifications list that long and that Mercedes badge, start saving now. Ms Hegner and her team are not saying yet, except that the V-class will fit somewhere between C-class and the mid-range E-class prices. A good guess would be about £25,000, which will put it somewhere near the very top-of-the-range and excellent Ford Galaxy.

That doesn't worry Ms Hegner. She says: "People will expect traditional qualities from Mercedes, so they will be looking at something different than what is offered by other manufacturers."

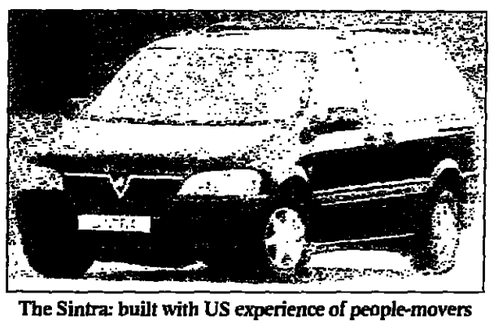
With 25,000-a-year to sell — including about 3,000 in Britain — she will need to be confident there are that many people with that much leisure time, because this is almost certainly going to be the second or even third car on the drive. Probably not Ms Hegner's drive, though: She has a 1969 Jensen-Healey two-seater to add to her Mercedes company car, a gorgeous leisure car . . . and still nowhere to put the luggage.



With intergrated three-points belts, passengers remain safe when seats are turned

AND WATCH THIS SPACE FOR THE VAUXHALL SINTRA

From the place where it all began



The Sintra: built with US experience of people-movers

LAST but not least, Vauxhall is joining the fray, but the company has put its faith in the nation that invented the people-carrier for its break into the market scheduled to happen early in 1997.

The Sintra will be the first Vauxhall made in the United States, sharing a floorpan with a Pontiac stablemate, produced in Georgia, although there will be a range of British engines available familiar to the company's customers here.

The range will be led by a 2.5-litre, 170 brake horse power, 24-valve V6, which comes from Vauxhall's factory at Ellesmere Port on Merseyside. There will also be a 130bhp four-cylinder Ecotec 2-litre and a base 100bhp direct injection turbo-diesel, an engine which should be seen soon in the Vectra line-up.

Everything else though will be made in America by the chaps at Pontiac who are developing a new generation TranSport multi-purpose people-mover for their own market. The Sintra will have sliding rear doors on both sides and up to eight seats.

Vauxhall will be hoping to cash in on some cheap manufacturing costs over there and the Americans' experience in making people-carriers. Although the world market is about 1.9 million-a-year, 1.2 million of those are sold in the United States, where people-carriers have been around for years.

Vauxhall will be a little late for the party, joining the European market well after its competitors have launched their vehicles and tested whether there really is that much of a demand. But Vauxhall says that the American market is proof enough that Europe is ready to throw open its arms wide to the people-carriers sprouting everywhere.

Then again, the best-selling vehicle in the USA is a pick-up truck. What does this all mean?

Fresh air and electric shock

Rosalyn Lewis has a fitting warning if you're thinking about a car ioniser



Beware . . . but it says nothing about the size of fuse

Before you buy a car ioniser and have it wired into your car, think twice. In April, our newly-fitted health device began to melt, filling the car with noxious fumes, wrecking the dash, damaging the electrics and scaring the life out of myself and my partner. Quite horrible, and supposedly a one-off incident, according to Oxford Trading Standards officers, but just in case you have a car ioniser, read on.

Car ionisers claim to improve the quality of air in your car. Available from mail-order companies for less than £20, they sit on the dash, plugged into a cigarette lighter or directly into the car's wiring.

The unit is small, about 90mm square, 30mm high, with an outer plastic case. Inside is a simple arrangement of needles, usually visible from the outside. An electric current runs a high negative voltage to the needles, which produces electrons. These then combine with particles of dust, pollen and smoke in the air which are deposited on surfaces, the idea being that the ioniser cleans the air. Manufacturers claim this facility can help sufferers of hay fever, asthma and house-mite allergies.

To fill you in a bit about ions, the atmosphere naturally has both, but in certain areas and times there are more of one type. Negative ions are produced by the splitting of a water droplet, so any watery atmosphere, even sprinkling your garden, will improve the negative ion count.

Any hot dry atmosphere will therefore have more positive ions. The idea is that we feel better in a negative-ion rich atmosphere — by the seaside, by a fountain, or a lake — and worse in a hot dry one, which does seem to hold some truth.

But sceptics are unconvinced about how useful a modern ioniser is. A *Which?* report in March 1992 discovered that many devices for the home or office on sale did not seem to produce any ions at all, and the ones that did apparently did nothing noticeable for the tester's perceptions of wellbeing.

Still, being open-minded, we bought a car ioniser from ME Design, a mail order company, and as our rather old Astra does not have a cigarette lighter, had it wired into the dash by a local garage.

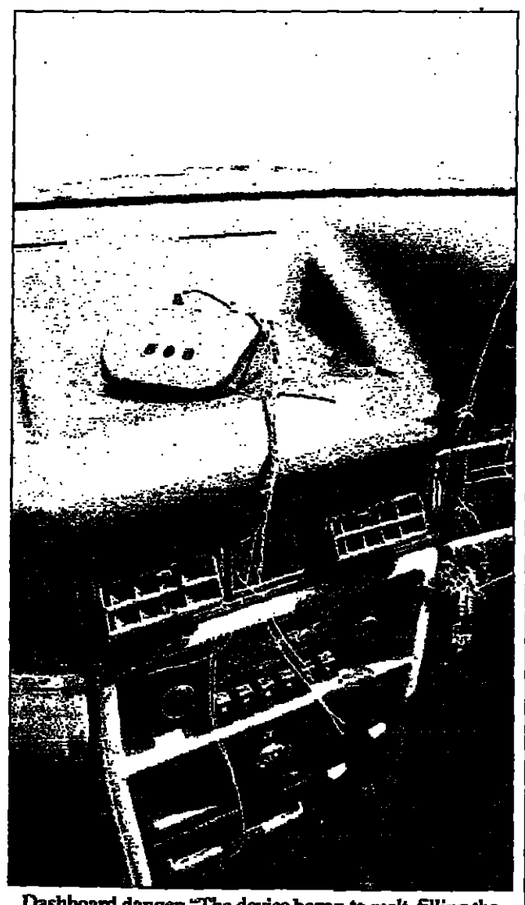
The ioniser seemed to work. We did feel better after three hours in the car, fresher, less crappy. A hit? Alas no, for all benefits instantly evaporated when, 10 days after the fitting, the unit shorted out while we were on the road. Fortunately, no serious accident ensued from our emergency stop, but the dash was ruined and the car's electrics badly affected.

The immediate reaction of the garage was that the ioniser unit was faulty; the considered reaction of the importer, Dezac, was that the unit had been wired in to the wrong ampage. Leading British ioniser manufacturer Mountain Bréeze — who did not make our unit — then looked at the charcoaled remains and declared that the garage had been at fault and that, yes, a 20-amp fuse was far too large a current to fit to the unit.

Trading Standards officers have investigated. Dezac, the importer, has not stocked ionisers for several years, although I bought my Dezac ioniser in January of this year. ME Design now no longer sells car ionisers as a result of the TS investigation.

If it wasn't for a conversation with someone at Dezac, who said this sort of incident had happened before, the whole saga would be resolved. If you do buy an ioniser and have it fitted, do check the garage knows what it is doing. The ioniser we bought did not have any instructions about how it should be fitted.

And be careful: no car ioniser at present reaches British Electrotechnical Approvals Board standard. Having said that, our replacement Mountain Breeze ioniser appears to be working and seems to make a difference to the car atmosphere, although whether it has been worth the hassle I shall never know.



Dashboard danger: "The device began to melt, filling the car with noxious fumes and scaring the life out of us"

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cheaper Jeep

CHRYSLER has added a low-price version to its successful Jeep Cherokee 4WD range. The Cherokee 4.0 Sport has automatic transmission, anti-lock brakes, power steering and driver's side airbag as standard. It also has the Selec-Trac system which offers either two-wheel drive or full-time four-wheel-drive for road use and part-time four-wheel-drive in high and low ranges for off-road work. It is priced at £18,995. More than 13,000 Cherokees have been sold since the model was introduced in Britain in 1993.

Pedalling Austin

THE CHRISTMAS auction season is upon us with a vengeance, but here's one with a difference: JOY 1, a prototype child's pedal car modelled on the Austin 8 of 1947, is expected to fetch £4,000-£5,000 at Sotheby's in Billingshurst, Sussex, on Monday. The design was commissioned by Sir Leonard Lord, head of Austin, who thought that the car would provide work for miners forced to retire through lung disease. Unfortunately, it never went into production.

Vectra rockets

MORE THAN 20,000 orders have been received for Vauxhall's new Vectra, the replacement for the popular Cavalier, which went on sale in October. Hatchbacks represent 80 per cent of all orders for the car which also comes in saloon versions. Its increased width and wheelbase provide a more comfortable ride than the Cavalier.

Peugeot's million

THE Peugeot 306 built in Coventry as well as in France and Spain has become the fastest-selling model in the maker's history. The one millionth 306 rolled off the production line on Budget day, 33 months after the car's launch.

Correction

IN OUR Citroën ZX test last week, the 632-mile journey undertaken was from Calais to Salon de Provence, not Dijon as stated. The mpg calculations were correct.

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94M 80 TDI Estate Auto, 20K	£15,495
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95M 80 2.6SE Alpine White, Alloys, Sports Spec, 10,000 miles	£16,995
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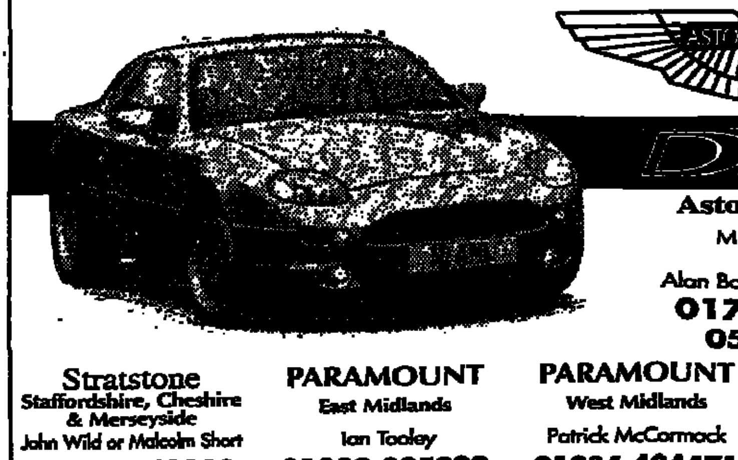
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95M	M3 Cpe 15 Factory Fitted Extras, Cost New in excess of £44,000	1,000	£37,995
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95M	318i Auto S Coupe AC, E.S.R, A.Bag, V. High Specification	18,000	£19,995
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91H	LEXUS LS 400 Hide, AC, E.S.Roof, ABS, E.Seats, CD	36,000	£19,995
95M	RANGE ROVER 4.0 SE New Model, A.C, ESR, Alloys	10,000	£34,995
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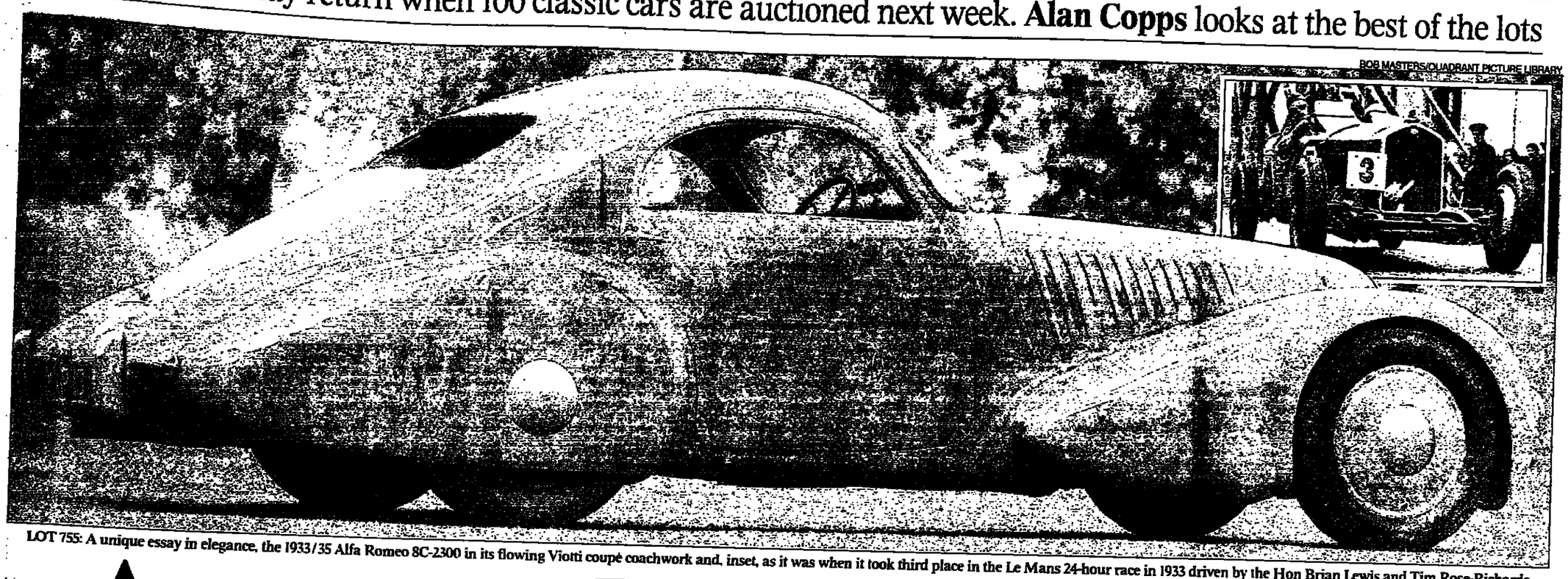
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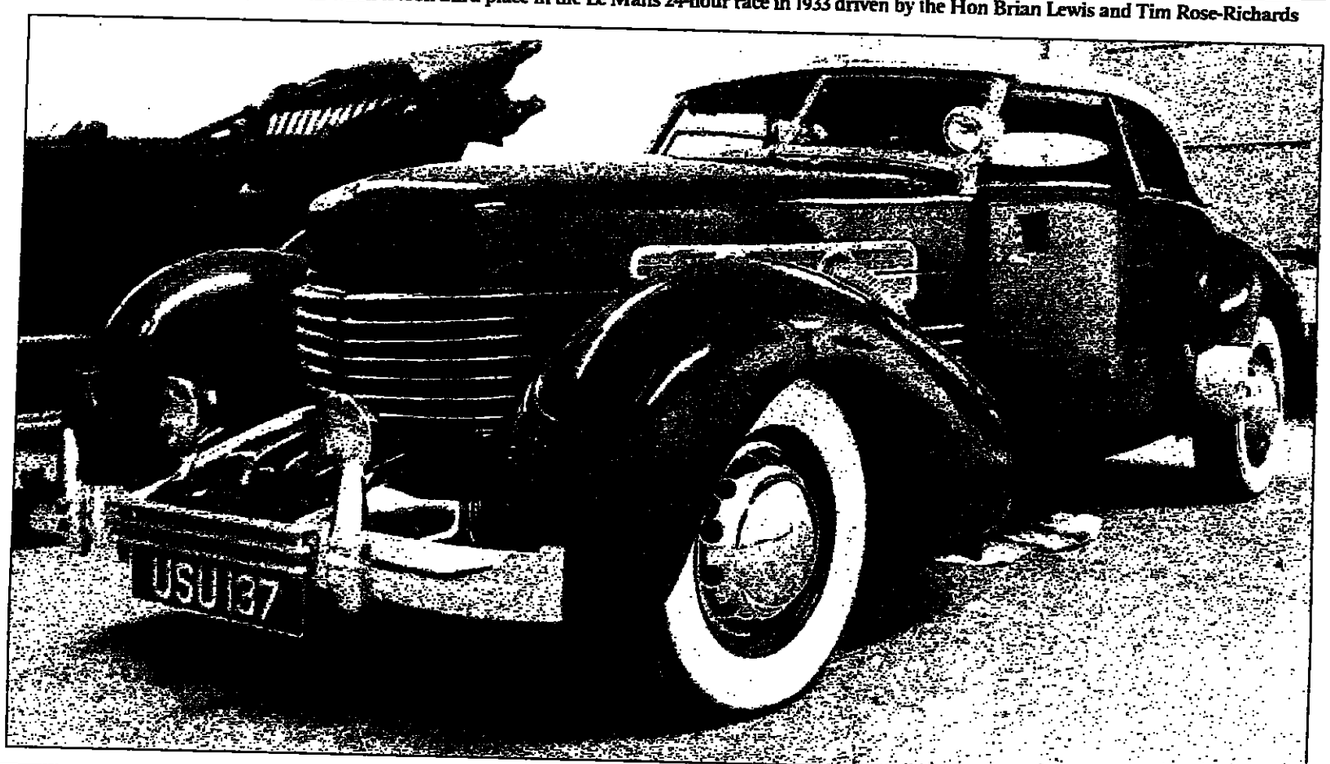
Record prices may return when 100 classic cars are auctioned next week. **Alan Copps** looks at the best of the lots

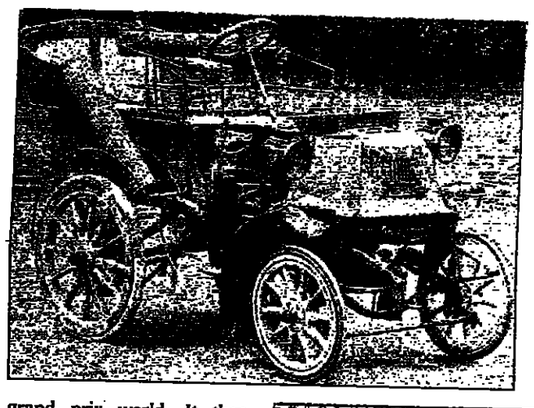


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LOT 755: A unique essay in elegance, the 1933/35 Alfa Romeo 8C-2300 in its flowing Viotti coupé coachwork and, inset, as it was when it took third place in the Le Mans 24-hour race in 1933 driven by the Hon Brian Lewis and Tim Rose-Richards

Any more bids? Do I hear £1m?





For once, poor old Diplodocus, that 80-foot-long, 10-ton dinosaur whose skeleton dominates the Natural History Museum and the imagination of so many children, will have to yield pride of place.

For on Monday the place will house automotive history. A hundred cars from 1900 to 1981, some holding an important place in the dreams of an older generation, go under the hammer.

Almost every auction catalogue comes through the post bearing the claim "a sale of important collectors' motor cars". But the classic car market has been in the doldrums since the early 1990s and only this year has it begun to show signs of real life. The claim of "importance" cannot be disputed for many of the cars in Brooks's winter sale this time.

"This is our biggest sale since 1991. We are very strong on motor racing and the historic sporting world and this is the cream of the crop," says Robert Brooks.

Although he is guarded about the possibility, this sale could see the return of the £1 million car — a price talked about for the London-Edinburgh Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost, that completed that journey in both directions entirely in top gear in a reliability trial in 1911, to establish the marque's supreme reputation for quality. It featured on the cover of *CAR 95* in September when it repeated the same trip, driven by Stewart Skilbeck of Brooks.

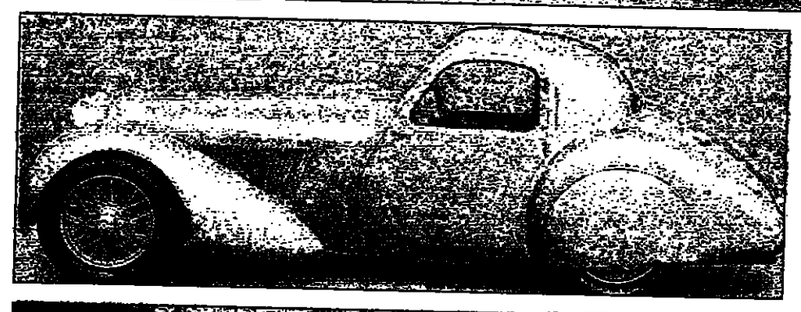
Robert Brooks says that one difference now is that more people are buying such precious old cars with the intention of using them on the road rather than simply storing them as investments. "A lot of the big collections are being used more and more. The National Motor Museum at Beaulieu regularly campaigns its cars and the Dutch motor museum uses 30 to 40 per cent of its exhibits on the road.

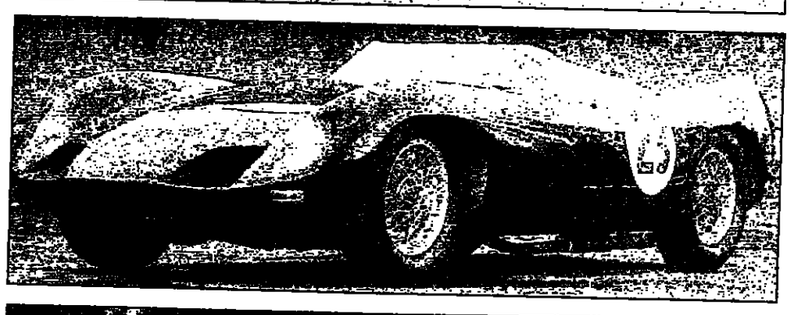
"The risks in racing are comparitively minor, most mechanical things can be fixed these days and historically many of these cars were modified through the decades to keep them racing."

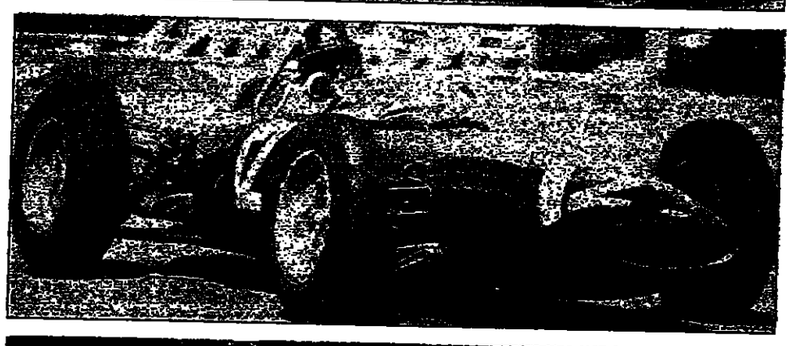
In one sense this is a good thing, having stilled the widespread criticism that too many fine machines were being mothballed by speculators. But it is not without its problems, as Robert Brooks points out. One of the most splendid-looking cars in the auction is a 2.3-litre Alfa Romeo with a uniquely elegant coupé body by the Italian coachbuilder Viotti, dating from 1935. But under its sleek skin this is the same car that came third in the Le Mans 24-hour race in 1933 driven by the Britons, the Hon Brian Lewis and Tim Rose-Richards. It was later sold to an Italian dealer and fitted with the new body.

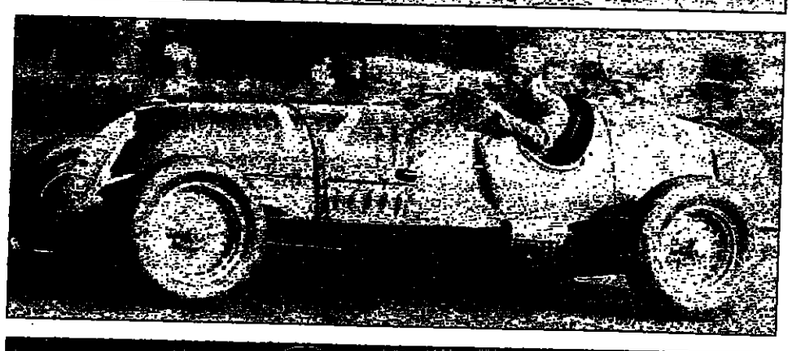
Its subsequent history includes a long spell in Africa and later ownership by Major Teddy Owens, who became general manager of the Cooper Car company in Surbiton, Surrey, when that firm was making its own impact on the grand prix world. It then passed into the Griffiths-Woodley collection, which forms a substantial part of Monday's sale.

"At the time it competed, the Le Mans body was regarded as disposable. But the competition chassis is a type much sought-after for historic racing. It would be a shame, but it must be a possibility that someone might buy this car, remove the Viotti body and restore it to Le Mans specification for historic racing," says Robert Brooks. For sheer elegance, the Alfa is only matched by the 1938 SS100 Grey Lady coupé, unchallenged star of that year's Earls Court Motor Show, and described as the most desirable early Jaguar to come to auction.

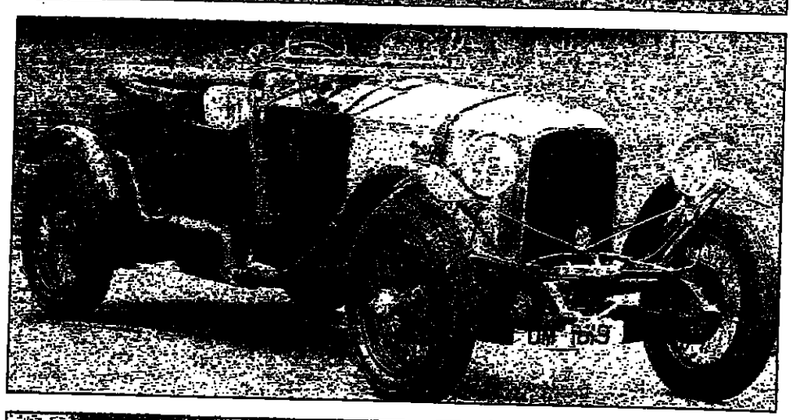














Clockwise from top left
LOT 832: A 1900 Daimler discovered in a barn in 1953 and unrestored
LOT 791: Cord 1936, once exhibited at the New York Museum of Modern Art
LOT 772: The last racing car built by Talbot-Lago, 1956/Picture, Brian Joscelyn
LOT 767: Dick Seaman's Alfa Romeo, Donington 1936/Picture, George Monkhouse
LOT 823: Luton's best kept secret? Vauxhall 30-98 1925/Picture, Bob Masters
LOT 816: As new, a Heinkel Bubble Car 1958, estimate £5,000
LOT 827: Simply the best. The London - Edinburgh Silver Ghost 1911
LOT 768: Graham Hill's BRM in the 1962 British GP/Goddard Picture Library
LOT 850: The Grey Lady, 1938. "Most desirable Jaguar"/Picture Bob, Masters

No estimate has been put on the Grey Lady or the Viotti car, but another rare Alfa Romeo in the sale has already passed the £1 million mark and must be the nearest challenger to the London-Edinburgh Rolls-Royce in the sheer price stakes.

This is the Alfa Romeo Tipo 8C-35, in which British racing pioneer Dick Seaman won the Donington Park Grand Prix in 1936. Last raced more than 40 years ago and virtually untouched since, this was one of the Alfa Romeos from Enzo Ferrari's team pitched against the mighty Mercedes and Auto Union cars in the mid-1930s grand prix battles — a surrogate struggle for fascist pride between Hitler and Mussolini. It is thought to have been driven at that time by Tazio Nuvolari, whom many still argue was the greatest grand prix driver, and whose name adds yet more glamour to an extraordinary pedigree which fetched £1.6 million at the height of the market in 1988. Prices are more realistic now and its estimate is around £900,000.

If the Alfa proves the most expensive of the racers on offer, perhaps the car likely to appeal most to British emotions is the 1961/62 BRM P578, known as Old Faithful. Graham Hill drove it when he won the World Championship in 1962 and, after 12 years of effort, the car finally landed the Constructors' Championship for BRM, the great White Hope of British motor racing.

What is astonishing about this car when compared to current Formula One machinery, which never lasts more than one season and is virtually rebuilt between races, is its phenomenal mileage. Its career spanned four seasons and 20,000 track miles during its championship campaigns alone. It still makes regular appearances at historic race meetings and its engine is, touchingly, described as "running, though tired".

Robert Brooks isn't worried about that description. "You don't need to listen to Pavarotti. Just sit and listen to that car rev to 9,000rpm," he says wistfully. Its estimate is £230,000-£280,000.

Hard on its heels is another BRM which lasted four championship seasons, the 1964/68 car which now has a 3-litre V12 engine and was driven at various times by Graham Hill, Richie Ginther, Jackie Stewart and Innes Ireland. This has the added attraction of having played a starring role in the 1966 film *Grand Prix*, alongside James Garner and Eva Marie Saint. A snip at £140,000-£180,000. An earlier great white hope of British motor racing is represented by another very rare car, a 1935 2-litre ERA voiturette.

But there is plenty of interest lower down the price scale. Another car from the collection built up by photographer Guy Griffiths and Jaguar executive Roger Woodley is a pre-production Jaguar XJ6 from 1968, only the fifth made of the model known as the "car that saved Jaguar". In need of some restoration, its estimate is just £800-£1,200.

See Trabant.....page 10

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320 SE Auto. 91 J. 4 door. Arctic grey. stereo. ESR. computer. switch. front & rear fogs. FSH. pristine. 40k. £11,600. 0181 995 0246(H) 0181 996 4223(O)

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520i SE touring. '93 L manual. glazier blue. FBMWSH. 26K mls. BMW. alarm. extras. £16,500. 01222 626090.

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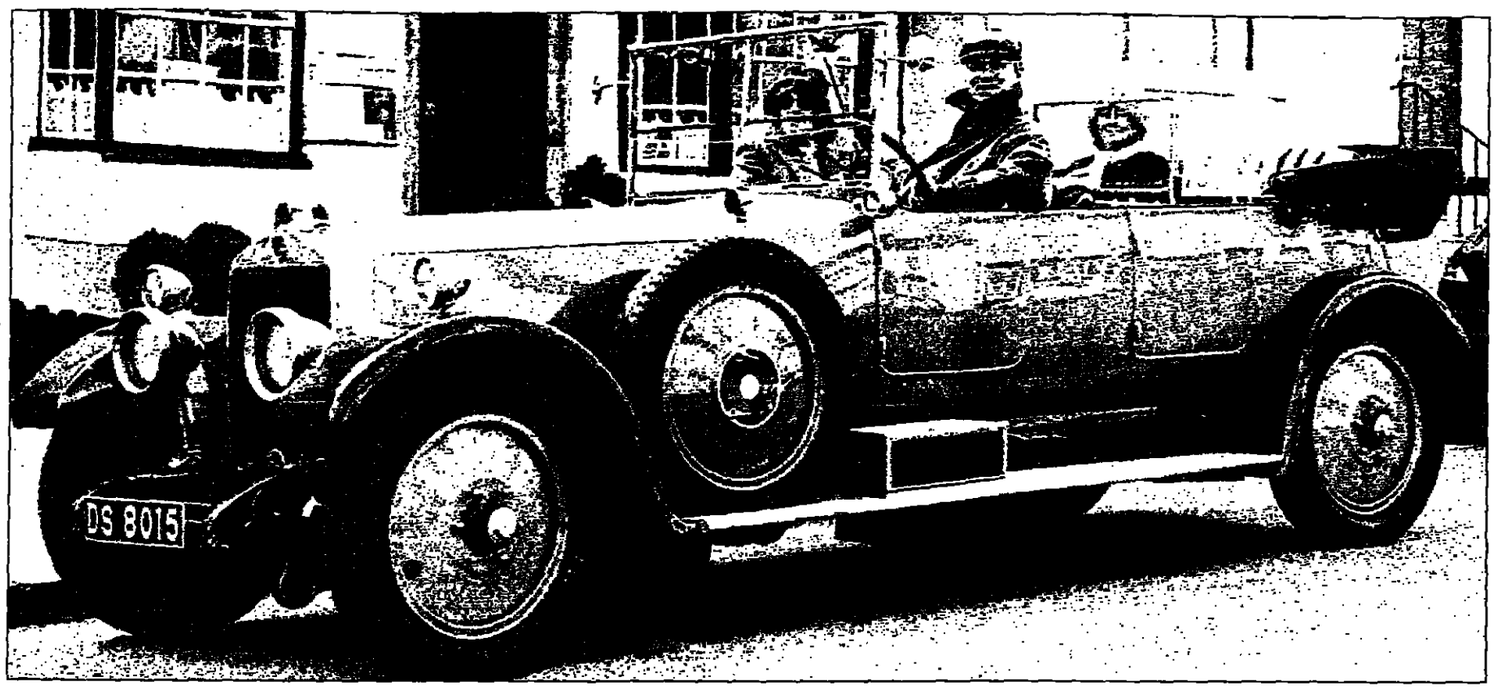
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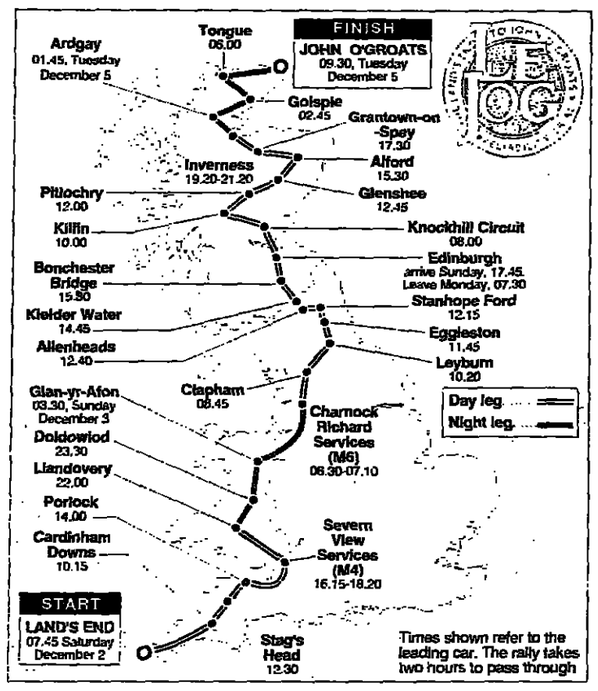
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The power and the glory of motoring

Appropriately driven by a man called Noble, a time-honoured Lanchester joins its elegant contemporaries today to travel the length of Britain. Alan Copps reports on a surviving giant of the past









A mine of precious metals on wheels that was bought by kings: Peter and Sue Noble in the front of the Lanchester, top, the car at John o'Groats at the end of last year's rally, above right, and Peter checking the engine. "It's from an heroic age," he says. "It was really the first British car"

Peter and Sue Noble will set off from Land's End at dawn today in their huge 6¼-litre, 1924 Lanchester tourer to follow a course just as testing and rather longer than that of last month's RAC Rally.

As the oldest car, their three-ton mobile monument to engineering excellence will lead a field of 112 crews on Le Jog, the initial-crafted nickname of the Land's End to John o'Groats Reliability Trial for Historic and Classic Cars. But while many might feel that 1,650 miles in three-and-a-half days with just one overnight stop is a punishing target, for the Nobles it is little more than, well . . . a jog.

For, assuming the Lanchester completes the course — and Peter Noble would hardly contemplate any other outcome — they will be setting off in January on the Vintage Monte Carlo Rally, merely a further preliminary to their next ambition — the 90th anniversary Peking-Paris rally in 1997.

The Lanchester "40 horse" is one of only 12 known to exist and the only left-hand-drive Lanchester of any kind to survive. Its proportions and statistics are majestic, its build quality — long before that term was invented — makes a Rolls-Royce look like a middleweight and a modern Volvo a bantam. Its bodywork is a mine of precious metals. Some of its technology, 71 years later, is the equal to that of a modern limousine.

The 6¼-litre, straight six engine has an overhead camshaft and the 20inch brakes on each wheel are power-assisted by hydraulic servo. The power is transferred to the wheels through an epicyclic gearbox, forerunner of automatic transmission, and it can accelerate from 3mph to 83mph in top gear. The basic chassis members look like steel railway sleepers and the bodywork is aluminium, duralumin, bronze and solid nickel (in the Second World War, large numbers of these cars were scrapped to retrieve these materials).

The fuel tank holds 37 gallons of petrol, the radiator nine gallons of coolant and there are nine gallons of engine oil, four of gearbox oil and one-and-a-half gallons of oil in the back axle. "It's a car from an heroic age," says Peter Noble. "It was really the first British car, but the company was bought by Daimler after going under in the depression of 1931. George VI had two Lanchesters when he was Duke of York, the Emperor of Japan had one, Haile Selassie had one and countless Indian Maharajahs."

In a concession to "rally trim" unlikely to be appreciated by any of those illustrious owners, for Le Jog, the hood, rear luggage rack, rear seat and a few other items have been removed to achieve a weight saving of 28 stone. Such Spartan preparations are unlikely to prove much hardship for the Nobles. They bought the car in 1990 with just 32,000 miles on the clock and have since managed to add a few thousand on trips including last year's Le Jog and Classic Marathon through Europe from the Czech Republic to Italy. "We bought this car for a round-the-world trip," says Peter Noble.

But as yet their mileage in the Lanchester is modest compared to the extraordinary expeditions they have undertaken in their other current rally car, a 1955 Bentley S1 Continental, nicknamed "Hero". These include two Asian journeys, one to Peking and Hong Kong, and one across Tibet to Saigon, a ride across North Africa and the London to Mexico rally earlier this year, 10,460 miles through 18 countries. After finishing the latter, they returned a few weeks later to Mexico and took part in the Carrera Panamaricana road race.

Pitched against the formidable Lanchester in the large Vintage class are a Bugatti Type 44 and two Bentleys. Entries for the small Vintage class include two real rarities, a 1930 "chain gang" Frazer Nash driven by Bill Ainscough, another London-Mexico driver, and a 1935 Brough Superior. Entrants are divided into six age categories which tackle special stages of varying difficulty, including manoeuvrability tests, circuit driving, hill climbs and regularity controls. There are secret time checks on the regularity sections and competitors will be penalised according to the second. The whole event is sponsored by Heritage Classic Car Insurance and Classic Rescueline (the latter service is unlikely to be needed by the Lanchester.)

The main prize, the Heritage Trophy, will be fought over by teams of three cars, whose names give the best indication of the atmosphere in which Le Jog is conducted: The Alvis Hares, the Horizontal Opposition (Jowett Javelins), The Magnetic Force (MG Magnettes), the Old Mother Rileys, the Three Healeyateers and the Dagenham Dustbins (Ford Cortinas). There is a *Concours de Confort et d'Elegance* for the most original looking car.

There are 23 foreign competitors, 17 of them from Holland and others from Belgium, Germany, Denmark, Switzerland and Finland. One entrant, Bruce Berrecloth, is flying in from Hong Kong to drive a Volvo PV544.

It might all be great fun but there will be no shortage of fiercely competitive driving on the tougher special stages, especially among the more recent cars in the Sixties Historic and post-Historic classes, vehicles made between 1960 and 1978. The entry list abounds with names from rallying history. Neil Wilson, who won the RAC Rally with Henri Toivonen in 1985, shares the wheel of a Porsche 356 with Willy Cave, who was a member of the successful BMC team in the 1950s. Another member of that 1950s team, champion navigator Don Barrow, is driving an Austin Healey 3000, and former British hillclimb champion Roy Lane drives a Volvo Amazon.

There are 34 different makes of car, ranging in age from 17 to 71 years. The most popular is MG, with 21 entries from a tiny 1935 PB Midget to a couple of MGB GTV8s. There are eight of the big Austin Healeys and one smaller 100/4, nine assorted Volvos, seven Fords and seven Jaguars, five Porsches, five Triumphs and four Rileys.

The procession takes between two and two-and-a-half hours to pass any point along the route. The field is neatly packaged between the Noble's enormous Lanchester and the equally impressive "tail-end Charlie", a 1978 6.7-litre Rolls-Royce Silver Wraith driven by Jonathan Lyons.

CAR 95 next week will carry an account of the Nobles' journey.

CAR TOONS



Helen Mound discovers the financial advantages of little-known car insurance companies

Cover that's cheap and very cheerful

My first mistake was thinking I could afford to run a sports car, my second was choosing an insurance company I'd heard of. With credentials like mine — motoring writer, under 30, hasn't held car insurance for eight years — most companies wouldn't insure me in a Fiat Panda, let alone a Mazda MX-5 convertible, so I was dutifully grateful when my broker found three well-known firms that would offer me cover.

The first year's quotes were staggering: AA £995, Eagle Star £950, Norwich Union £845. The second year's reduced quotes were equally alarming: AA £945, Eagle Star £899, Norwich Union £795. Then a solution revealed itself when a friend's Seat Ibiza was struck by another car and needed substantial repairs. I was fuming to myself about his hasty choice in "cheap" car insurance with one of those new-fangled companies when, the following day, he received a replacement car. The battered Seat was rebuilt within a week, and returned valeted.

The "cheap" insurance is a policy with Privilege, a year-old company launched by Peter Wood, the man who made his millions with Direct Line. Like its stablemate, Privilege sells direct over the telephone, cutting out the need for brokers, and it is stealing up to 450 policyholders a day from the big firms.

The company claims there are around six million "non-standard" policy holders in Britain, discriminated against because of their age, vehicle, driving record, occupation and health. As the first company in the UK to sell high risk motor insurance directly over the phone, Privilege expects to hold at least 10 per cent of the "non-standard" market within four years, which will mean handling 600,000 high risk motorists a year. Already it has 52,000 policyholders.

Privilege is also attempting to improve drivers' awareness for safety and security. To cut the risk of accidents — and get a 10 per cent discount — policyholders can attend a driver training course at any BSM driving school, costing between £49 and £55. The course involves a two-hour assessment with an instructor who identifies any of your bad habits and potential hazards.

Drawing attention to security, all its performance car owners are asked to fit a British Insurers approved engine immobiliser, and if other policyholders fit one it offers them a 12.5 per cent discount.

I asked for a quote and the response was extraordinary: £470 and no more special conditions than others insist on. How can Privilege in some cases cut the competition's quote by half? The company begins by explaining that the "non-standard" market is serviced by 12 companies using around 10,000 brokers, who demand up to 15 per cent commission. Buying direct insurance policies cuts out commission.

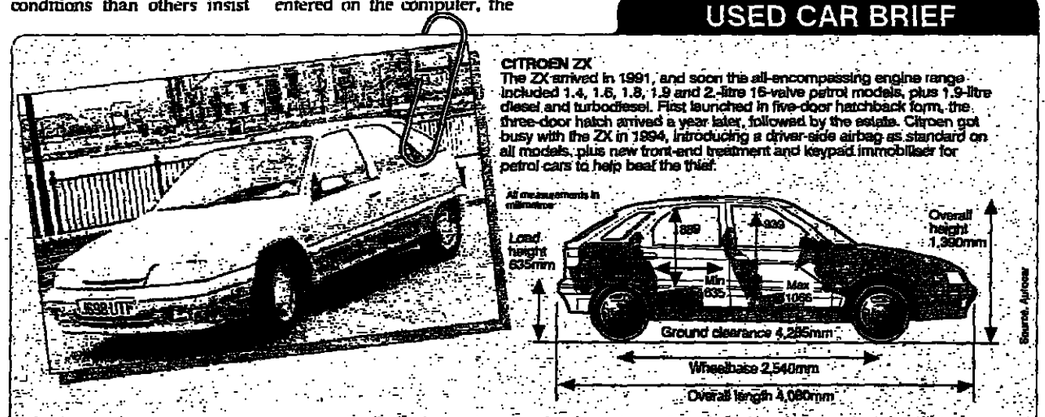
"Our greatest strength is new technology," explains Jim Wallace, Operations Director. "We can adjust our rates rapidly. If every Porsche quote over a matter of days results in a sale, we know our quotes are running too low. Our rates are changed as fast as they can be entered on the computer, the larger companies take two or three months to ensure all brokers get that information, so they take longer to be competitive."

The most attractive feature about Privilege is its ability to avoid discrimination. According to Brand Manager John Grimbaldeston: "Motorists in certain careers are penalised because of the people they mix with. A pop star is likely to give pop star friends a lift in their car, a journalist might do the same for a celebrity. The potential injury liability is massive, and most insurers consider anyone related to the celebrity world, however slight, is a risk.

"We take a more realistic approach. There's no point in penalising a junior journalist from a local gazette on the off-chance he might give Eric Cantona a lift and then damage his legs. We still have to take into account the potential liabilities, but we take a closer look at each case."

It's no surprise that the insurance company that's rattling the establishment appeals to young drivers, certain professions, disabled drivers, high-performance cars and those with bad records.

USED CAR BRIEF



CITROEN ZX

The ZX arrived in 1991, and soon the all-encompassing engine range included 1.4, 1.6, 1.8, 1.9 and 2-litre 16-valve petrol models, plus 1.9-litre diesel and turbodiesel. First launched in five-door hatchback form, the three-door hatch arrived a year later, followed by the estate. Citroen got busy with the ZX in 1994, introducing a driver-side airbag as standard on all models, plus new front-end treatment and keypad immobiliser for petrol cars to help beat the thief.

GOOD NEWS: The ZX has won many fans in its short life as an excellent hatchback that offers far more by way of drive and comfort than the volume-build competition (Escort and Astra). Power steering and brakes combine with well-sorted suspension for agreeable driving.

BAD NEWS: On cars that have covered 70,000 miles and more check that cambelt is new - failure can wreck the engine. Single windscreen wiper wears quickly and vision can be a problem for taller drivers. Check all electrics especially central locking and electric windows.

SAFETY: All cars got seatbelt pretensioners from mid 94 to "grab" front seat occupants in the event of an accident, and the ZX's safety credentials were further uprated with the arrival of a driver-side airbag as standard from late 1994.

REPLACEMENT PARTS: (Prices include VAT) clutch assembly £125; full exhaust £375; front damper £55; rear damper £40; front brakepads £50; alternator £150; starter motor £90; tyre £45.

AVOID: Cars with uneven wear on the front tyres can prove expensive investments especially if steering pulls to one side indicating major problems ahead. Smaller engined 1.4-litre petrol cars can be noisy.

INSURANCE: Cover from AA Insurance (0800 444777) on a 1993 L-reg ZX Avantage 1.9 turbodiesel costs a 55-year old professional male, living in Winchester with full no claims bonus, £148 a year fully comprehensive and a similar female £155. A 22-year old male with one year no claims, living in south London, pays £761 a year and a similar female pays £646.

PRICES: Expect to pay £4,500 for a 1992 K-reg ZX Reflex 1.4i three-door hatch, £6,000 for a 1995 M-reg Reflex 1.4i five-door estate, £5,750 for a 1992 K-reg ZX Avantage 1.6i five-door hatch, £6,600 for a 1993 L-reg ZX Furio 1.8i three-door, and £5,750 for a 1992 J-reg ZX Avantage 1.9 diesel five-door hatch.

LOOK FOR: The diesel cars in particular are highly rated for their sophisticated performance, quiet running and smooth power delivery. The 92bhp turbodiesel is worth seeking out even over the non-turbo 71bhp 1.9 diesel as it offers better performance with little if any penalty on fuel consumption.

OVERALL: Not one of Citroen's wackiest-looking cars, but a winner nevertheless. As a high-mileage family car the 40-60mpg turbodiesel makes most sense, though for a bit more zip there are also the bigger engined petrols including the 1.9i and 16-valve 2-litre Volcane models which will top 125mph where permitted.

50 '94 M-REG CARS UNDER £7,000

MODEL	PRICE Nov-95	Dec-95	Chge
Rover Mini 1300 Sprite	4275	4195	-1.87
Citroën AX 10 Debut 5dr	4850	4450	-8.24
Daihatsu Mira 5dr	4550	4475	-1.64
FSO Caro 1.5 GLXi 5dr	4250	4195	-1.29
Fiat Cinquecento 3dr	4195	3895	-7.15
Fiat Panda 1.0 CLX 3dr	4175	4095	-2.15
Fiat Uno 1.0ie Start 3dr	4575	4495	-1.74
Ford Fiesta 1.1i 3dr	5295	5175	-2.49
Hyundai X2 1.3LS 5dr	4850	4775	-1.54
Lada Riva 1500 E 4dr	3095	2850	-7.91
Lada Samara 1500 GI 5dr	4895	4875	-0.40
Nissan Micra 1.0L 3dr	5525	5425	-1.80
Peugeot 106 Graduate 3dr	5795	5575	-3.79
Peugeot 106 1.4 XR	6725	6495	-3.42
Proton 1.3 GE 4dr	4895	4825	-1.43
Proton 1.3 GL Aeroback	5650	5575	-1.32
Renault 5 Campus Prima 3dr	4450	4375	-1.68
Renault Clio RL 1.2 Prima 3dr	5875	5725	-2.55
Renault Clio 1.9 RL Prima Diesel 3dr	6250	6275	0.40
Rover Metro 1.1 Quest 3dr	4475	4475	0.00
Rover Metro 1.1 C 5dr	5095	5095	0.00
Rover Metro 1.1 S 5dr	5825	5825	0.00
Rover Metro 1.4 LD 5dr	6275	6275	0.00
Seat Ibiza 1.3 CL 3dr	5475	5250	-1.36
Skoda Favorit GLXi 5dr	4650	4650	0.00
Skoda Favorit GLXi estate	5350	5395	0.84
Subaru Vivio GLi 4WD 5dr	5095	4795	-5.88
Suzuki Swift 1.3 GS 3dr	6095	5950	-2.37
Vauxhall Corsa 1.2L Merit 3dr	5675	5775	1.76
Vauxhall Corsa Merit Diesel 5dr	6125	6225	1.63
Rover Mini 1.3i Cooper	5375	5295	-1.48
Asia Rocsta Hard Top	6475	6375	-1.54
Dacia Duster GLX estate	3875	3825	-1.29
Daihatsu Charade 1.3 GSE 3dr	5375	5225	-2.79
Fiat Punto 55 S 5dr	5550	5795	4.41
Fiat Tipo 1.4ie S 3dr	5850	5750	-1.70
Fiat Tempra 1.6ie S 4dr	6125	5925	-3.26
Ford Fiesta 1.1 LX 5dr	6325	6395	1.10
Ford Escort 1.3 5dr	5750	5850	1.73
Kia Pride LX 5dr	4925	4850	-1.52
Nissan Micra 1.3 LX 3dr	6475	6295	-2.77
Seat Toledo 1.6 CLi 5dr	6475	6395	-1.20
Subaru Justy SI 3dr	6095	5995	-1.64
Rover Maestro 1.3 Clubman 5dr	5095	4995	-1.96
Citroën AX 1.1 Forte	5525	5275	-4.52
Seat Marbella 900 Fun 3dr	3850	3750	-2.59
Ford Fiesta 1.8L Diesel 3dr	5875	5795	-1.36
Ford Fiesta 1.3i Auto 3dr	5895	5995	1.69
Vauxhall Astra 1.4 Merit 3dr (60ps)	6550	6650	1.52
Kia Mentor 1.6 SLX 4dr	6650	6350	-4.51

CAP MOTOR RESEARCH LTD

Prices rounded to simulate actual dealer forecourt prices. HB = hatchback S = saloon. Price changes based on M-reg, low mileage cars. Figures supplied by CAP Motor Research.

ROVER has joined its parent company BMW, Fiat and Renault in a Europe-wide agreement to recycle as much as possible of scrapped cars. Rover will assume responsibility for recycling all four marques in Britain and the three other makers will each adopt a reciprocal policy in their home country.

The programme works by agreement between makers and scrapyards to reclaim metals, plastics, rubber and other materials, thus reducing the need for dumping automotive scrap in landfill sites. Although the agreement was announced in advance of the Budget, it will coincidentally relieve the motor industry of some contributions to the £7 a tonne landfill levy introduced by the Chancellor.

Rover is already leading a British programme called CARE. Scrapyards which meet rigorous environmental standards become approved CARE agents, working to strict procedures for the recovery of raw materials and disposal of dangerous waste.

Scorching fire on the road

Paul Myles is carried away by the power of Honda's latest superbike

On the Continent, the main role of the motorcycle remains that of a cheap and convenient mode of transport, but in Britain bikes have become objects of pleasure — magic carpets to whisk their owners off and away from horrid reality.

No single machine so clearly defines this quiet revolution as the Honda CBR900RR, more commonly known as the Fireblade. For this top-of-the-range 900cc sports model outsold every other motorcycle in Britain last year. In a total market of 51,148, it sold 1,774, more than any other powered two-wheeler including mopeds, a feat being repeated this year by the slightly smaller CBR600. It's like Honda's NSX supercar outselling the Ford Fiesta.

The latest version of the Fireblade was launched recently at the grand prix circuit of Catalonia, a beautiful track set in the ugly industrial suburbs of Barcelona. But Honda is not just selling a bike; it is marketing a dream.

The new version is lighter — just 183kg — and faster, thanks to an engine stretched to 918cc providing 128 bhp. Minor modifications refine the beast, but do nothing to tame its image or performance. This is a sharp-focused boy racer, not a practical commuter. The riding position, made more user-friendly this year, is still very much stretch-forward-feet-back and guaranteed to cripple after several hours in the saddle.

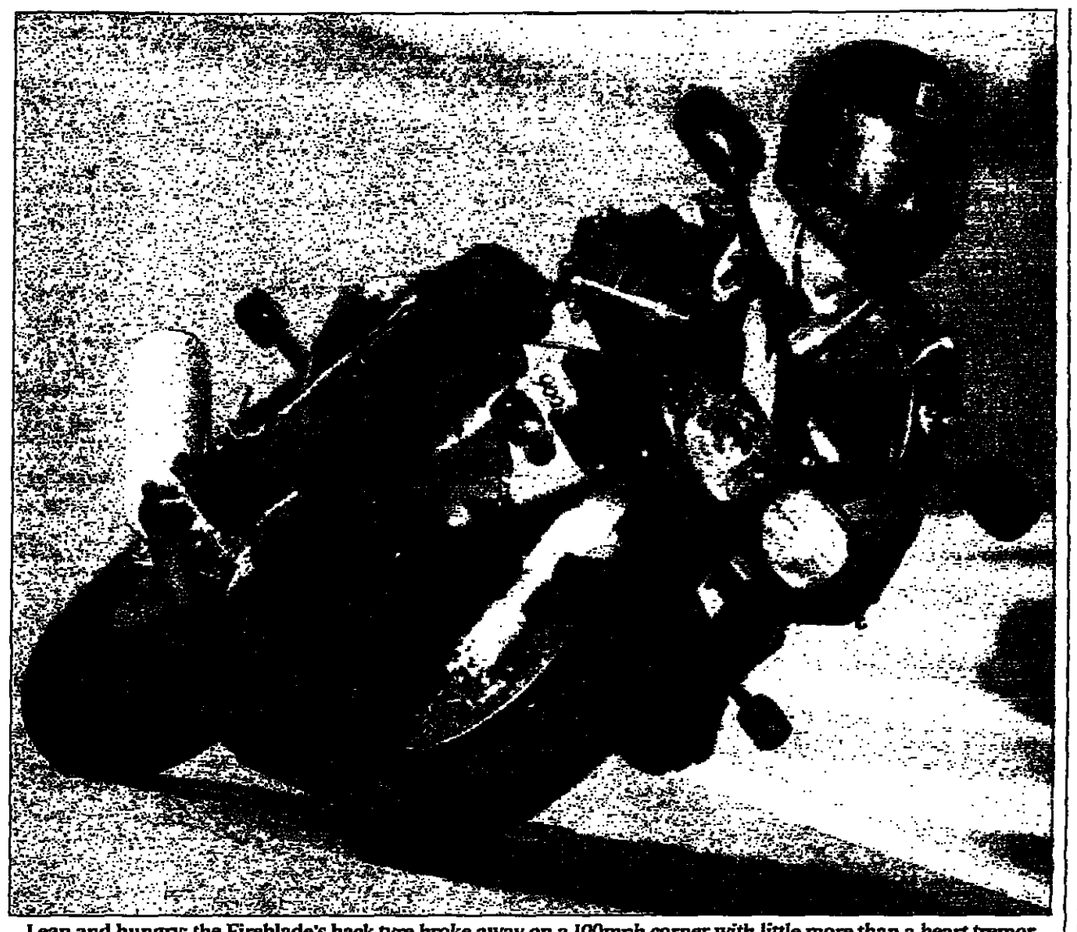
This is a grown-up's mobile Dinky toy. A slice of escapism that, despite a recession, could still persuade many of the bike-buying public to scrape together the £9,265 to enjoy it.

To ride the machine was divine. While the true speed demons at the launch spent a good deal of time endlessly adjusting the huge front forks and rear shock, I found the standard settings ideal. Even under full power out of bends it was difficult to persuade the 'Blade into anything more than a slight shake of the head. This bike can be held on its hero balls (the unfortunate name for the steel stud footpeg protectors) round a 90mph corner.

> The machine's limits were far beyond my own

Steering is superbly light, allowing a quick flick through the Catalonia chicane. Yet the bike remains rock solid along the seemingly endless right-hand sweepers and the horribly long start/finish straight, the end of which makes full use of the massive twin front disc brakes.

Power is every bit as smooth as the old 'Blade, but the larger motor provides noticeably more torque over 7,000rpm, firing the bike up to it's redline of 11,000 often quicker than you can stop it. It inspires and flatters at the same time. This mere mortal can report that the machine's limits are far beyond his own.



Lean and hungry: the Fireblade's back tyre broke away on a 100mph corner with little more than a heart tremor

Yet the hero balls were kept forced into the ground on some corners, and the back tyre broke away on a 100mph corner with little more than a heart tremor to mark the event.

In short, there is nothing I can say to puncture the bubble of reverie that potential Fireblade owners will be enjoying after reading those words. For these people, according to Honda UK's own research, tend to be men from brickies to company directors in their early thirties, often with a family, a mortgage and a couple of cars.

Their Fireblades will stay under wraps on wet and weekdays, and edge menacingly out of the garage only for summer Sunday thrashes or a hedonistic trip to the TT races.

For the bike importers know that motorcycles are now very much leisure items, with exotica achieving sales and sensible commuter mopeds struggling to make an impression. Government legislation must take a large measure of responsibility for this sea change. The two-part bike driving test effectively matches the inconvenience and cost of taking lessons towards a car test. Insurance companies are the other major culprit, often charging many times more to cover youngsters on power limited motorcycles than to drive cars.

Young people, naturally enough, are steering a path to cars, leaving the bike-buying power in the hands of those of us in middling years with enough fiscal muscle to pay for something very special.



Modifications do nothing to tame image or performance

DR DASHBOARD

I started feeling ill on Tuesday . . .

Q **I am suffering from a severe attack of Budget blues. What has caused this?**

A This is a disease which affects most motorists when the Chancellor of the Exchequer delivers his annual statement. This year, I fear an epidemic after he increased the duty on fuel by 19p a gallon, and the road fund licence by £5 a year, while cutting the road-building programme.

Q **Is this a fair way to treat an innocent motorist?**

A No, but you should have learnt by now that life is never fair. To put it in a nutshell, the Chancellor is demanding £21bn a year in taxes from motorists, that's 12 per cent of his total tax take, and spending less than £2bn on new roads. Of course, he has to spend some of our money on maintaining the roads and supporting public transport, but there's still a huge gap.

Q **What's his excuse for this highway robbery?**

A He wants to control public spending and in doing so is taking account of opposition to some road plans.

Q **So is all this supposed to be good for me?**

A It depends whether you live close to the proposed roads or are always stuck in traffic jams because they don't exist. Mind you, with pollution high on the political agenda, ministers think it better if motorists are discouraged from using their cars.

Q **What's the remedy for my depression?**

A Ah, that's a question no doctor likes. I certainly wouldn't recommend giving up the car, because with the imminent privatisation of the railways and fierce competition affecting bus operators, public transport isn't going to get any better.

Q **I suppose there could be some cheering news. Do these road cuts mean that all those protesters sleeping in trees will stop filling my television screen and go home?**

A I'm afraid not. The Newbury bypass is one of a dozen schemes which are still going ahead.

Q **And will they go home after that?**

A It depends on what happens to road plans around Stonehenge. It will just need Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, to decide to drive a new dual carriageway past the stones for the protesters to come out in even greater force.

Q **So do you have any good news for me?**

A Yes. Sir George has persuaded private firms to put up another £500m for roads which they will build and run. These include improving the route from north of Bradford via Skipton to the M6 in Cumbria and making more of the A303 between the M3 and Devon into dual carriageway.

Q **But nobody thinks private companies will be able to run the railways, so why should they be capable of running roads?**

A The Government will offer incentives by agreeing to pay a "shadow toll" for every vehicle using the new roads. It will be in the companies' interests to build and maintain the roads properly so that more traffic uses them.

Q **That sounds like real competition.**

A It does. You might even get companies advertising their roads on television with slogans like "Beat the holiday jams to the West Country: take Betterbuild's fast-moving Route 303".

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DAIMLER 3.6 E-reg, Solent Blue/Dove int. Service history, 75k Excel cond. £5,250. Tel 01442 877573/01582 793880

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XJR 91J 4 litre. Auto, 43 T. Solent Blue, magnolia leather. FSH, all extras. Immaculate £17,995 Tel. 01706 360956 (day) 01706 827937 (evenings/weekends)

SOVEREIGN 3.2 H reg 1990. 47k mls. Diamond Blue / dealaln £13,500. 01474 813962 home 01474 560481 office

XJS 4.0 1990 auto. leather. E/R. FSH. fantastic. for quick sale £6,950 01243 607607.T

XJ12 6 litre. Kingfisher blue/grey leather. '94 (model) 60,000 mls, director's car, FSH, immaculate. £18,495 OVNO. 01332 810811 (Mon-Fri).

XJS 4.0 auto. 92K. 1 own, BRG, full spec, 56k miles, fsh, superb. £14,750. 0121 325 2867 T

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260 E Mercedes Salon 1988, Metallic, auto, PAS, electric s/r, elec windows, ABS, FMBSH, 1 owner, exc cond, 76,000 miles. £8,250 Tel. 0973 700809 or 0181 979 6923

280 SL 86C Champagne 68k miles, H/S top, A/C, leather, FSH, Blaupunkt AM/FM, pristine condition £14,600. Tel 0171 234 2368 weekdays

280SL 85, 5 sp man, nau blue, H/S tops, ABS, a/c, lthr, alarm/immob, rear seat, lady owner, 61,000 mls, exceptional £15,500 01373 466670

280TE man March 93 (K), 56,000 miles, Met. Green / cream leather, 7 seats, Walnut, Central arm rest, Elec roof, Immac £19,000, Tel. 01289 330260 (H) 01289 307264 (O)

300 SE 1987, auto metallic grey, one owner, FMBSH 142,000 miles, but still looks and drives like new £6,250. Tel 01332 840009 (H) 01773 835735 (O)

300SL 1992 Pearl Blue / Grey hide, 32,000 miles, with full service history, fully alarmed, with CD player 2 owners. £38,000. 01670 515196

300CE 24V 92J, Almandine, Beige Hide, Auto, Air Cond, Sportline Suspension, 22,000 miles, Total Dealer History, £25,995 01483 283333, 0850 911926

300CE 24V, 90, Pearl Grey, fully loaded, incl air lther etc 49k FSH, £21,999 LSM 0860 535 907 / 0121 643 1915

300D 1990 H Havana brown metallic, Auto/ABS FSH Numerous extras £14,750 ono Tel 01953 717237 Norfolk

300E Diesel 1990 March, auto, metallic silver/grey cloth, save £7,000 against the new model £23,850 01627 821306 (Home) 01562 663381 (Work)

300 E 24 valve, '92 J, immaculate, 42,000 mls, FMBSH, pearl, leather, air, CC, etc. £19,995. For details telephone 01491 681027

300SL 1991 Silver/Black Hide, Cruise, Htd Seats, 26,000mls, FSH, £38,995 Wheelhouse 0115 970 5555

300SL 89(F) 1 of last old shape, 1 lady owner from new, Alderine metallic Red Cream leather interior, Auto, FMBSH, 27K mls, £26,000 ono, 01502 716056 day/ 01502 717519 eves/wends

300SL J reg blue/black, full main dealer service hist 22,000 miles, pristine condition £37,000 ono 0191 263 1728

300SE 90 H Met Silver, 8,761 mls Auto, Elec windows Elec s/roof Alarm, FMBSH, As new £20,900 Tel: 0115 9228886

300SL 24v, J-reg, Pearl Blue, 13,000 miles, history, r/seat, CD, Ex condition £42,500, 01708 340777/ 0831 620477

320E saloon, '93 L, black, 37k mls, FMBSH, cream leather, alloys, ESR, stereo, £27,500 Tel 01785 815716

300TE 92J nautic blue hide 7 seats airbag & cntl cruise finbsh 71k mls £18,650 01932 850140 /865027 or 0374 860926 T

320 CE 93 Blue blk alloys music, 6/R etc, 38,000m, 1sh 1 own, £27,950 01283 762762 TH

350SL Conv 1980 Light blue met/ navy int & hood, 2 owners, 34,000 miles Superb £14,250 Tel (o) 0171 354 8177/(h) 0171 226 9931

380SL 1984 (Private plate) auto, white/blue hide, blue S/top, white H/top, ABS, alloys, RDS/Stereo, FMBSH £12,950 01438 728724 or 0836 225400

400 SEL white K reg, alloys, FMBSH, 29K mls, CD, climate, leather, R/blind remote alarm, memory seats, etc As new £40,000 Tel. 0973 503024

420 SEC auto, D reg, silver sand, 62,000 mls, full service history, excellent condition, A/C, alloys, CC, ESR, leather, auto seat belts, Blaupunkt rad/cass, £12,600. No offers. Tel (01211) 705 4760 (H) or 355 5661 (O).

420SEC Anthracite/Suede 88E s/roof e/seats 95K Superb cond, full hist, £12,750 01494 763375 (h) 0181 8416251 (w)

500SL March 92 reg J500 MSL 1 owner Almandine + black leather Fully equipped + CD 31,500 miles FMBSH Totally immaculate, private sale, serious offers on £49,000 No Trade prices or canvassers Tel 01373 833100 office hours

500SL 92 K, 93 spec Light blue metallic Leather interior Climate control 8 hole alloys, Electric seats CD player, 32k miles FSH Hard/soft tops £50,000 tel 01732 835366

500 SEC 1988 Maroon/Mushroom hide, air con, fsh, one non smoking owner, hands free phone, vecta immobiliser excellent condition, £13,250 01732 810286

500SEL 89(F) Auto, Blue/Black metallic Grey leather, Air con, stereo, FMBSH, 69k mls £14,000 ono, 01502 717519 wends/ 01502 716056 days

500SL 1989G Almandine/ Cream Hide Air Cond, Rear Seat, FSH, 46,000mls, £26,995 Wheelhouse 0115 970 5555

500SL 86D, Blue Blk/Grey hide, Air cond Air Bag, R/Seat, Htd Sts, Ortho Seat+Morel 48,000 miles, £22,996 Wheelhouse 0115 970 5656

500 SEC 1991 J reg, signal red, cream leather interior, 45,000 mls, total spec, FSH, superb condition £29,995 Tel 0181 6877000 (weekdays)

500SL H reg, 1990, Anthracite / cream leather, auto, a/c, all extras, FSH, 44,000 miles, £41,500 Tel 01276 471736 or 01932 845239 office

500SL 91H Red/ Beige Leather, full spec, £39,995 Tel. 01724 871906 T

560 SEL 1988 Paget Red /cream lthr, electric & heated rear seats, air con, FSH, £10,750. Beautiful cond 01642 468880 H 01642 488337 O

600 SEC 93L, Almandine, many extra features, 16,000mls only, £76,000 Pentagon 01934 641616

C180 Esprit (94) L, Blue Black, S/roof Man 65,200m £15,995 Gevlords 0181 767 1422 T

600 SEL 92 J Silver / Grey Hide, FMBSH, 36K miles, full specification Perfect condition £44,995 Tel. 01754 766207

190 2 litre, G reg, Feb 90, Black, sports suspension, 43,000 miles, FMBSH, ESR, alloys, new tyres, stereo, superb condition, £8,500, Tel: 01704 834004

C180 Classic 95M Met blue 14,000, aircon, E/W, FMBSH, stereo Private sale £17,800 Tel 01202 590948

C250D Elegance Auto, 94 Silver / Grey cloth, 36,000 mls, FMBSH, 1 owner, immaculate £20,950 01461 40241

C250 Diesel Elegance auto, 93 (L) Bornite, Cream leather, S/R Climate FMBSH, 46K, airbag, CD £20,995, 01245 256482

C180 Elegance, auto, silver, (N) Reg, 7k, elec seats etc, many extras - list £26K + 3 months old £22,950 Eastbourne 01323 412888

CE220 94(L) Blue/black met, Lthr int, Auto a/con FMBSH Full extras, Immac condition 9k mls £29,500 0171 2358169

C250 Diesel 1994 L, Classic, silver, one 70 yr old owner, 17,000 miles, FMBSH, ESR, cloth, auto As new £19,950 Tel: 01734 476655 (Home)

C180 Elegance auto, M reg, Nautic Blue Metallic / grey cloth, 2 airbags, rear head restraints, 1,900 miles as new £19,995 Tel. 0181 780 0491.

C180 Sport, M-reg, Manual, 10K FSH, Green, ESR, Alloys, Immac £18,500. Eves 0370 416292

C220 Sport 94(L), 26K miles, white/black leather, FMBSH, 1 lady owner, AMG body styling, glass sunroof Cd, 5 spoke alloys, heated seats, immaculate. Stunning car £23,000 ono Tel. 0191 271 6536

C200 Sport 2 11 94 (M) auto, all ver features incl. ESR, 4 win dows, alloys, 1 own, 9,000mls only, £21,995, Please Phone St Michaels Garage Sittingbourne Kent. 01795 477353 Office Hours Mon Sat Sun 12 5

C180 Sport, 94L, white/ black trim, 5 speed, ESR, EW, Alloys, twin air bag, 42k, FMBSH, £18,000, 01992 814619

C220 Sport 94L Silver/ Black Trim, £20,996 Tel 01724 871906 T

E300 auto Multivalve Diesel L reg 94, low mileage, CL, EW, ESR, ABS, PAS, air bag, RHR £22,780 ono, 0121 744 2041

E320 CAB 93 L 22,000 mile, Immaculate Full spec Cream lthr int Nautical Blue FMBSH. £40,000 Tel. 0181 4513147

E220 cabriolet, blue/black metallic, cream leather, Dec '93, 11,700 mls, FMBSH, CD, alarm, alloys, as new £36,000 Tel 0171 987 8667.

E220 Coupe, 94 (L) Auto, silver black cloth, cruise, HWW, RHR, FMBSH, 8,000 miles, radio/stereo £27,500 ono. Tel 01244 532364/ 0378 936329

E320 Coupe, 94 L, almandine/ cream lthr, a/c, 6 speed auto 17" alloys, FSH, fully spec, 21k £36,950, 01473 288922

E220 Coupe auto, 94 M, Smoke Silver / leather, 17k mls, FSH, £10k extras £29,995, 01277 210788 or 0973 541299.

E200D Auto I 94 Blue 33k FSH Cruise & many extras, Immac condition £21,750, Tel 0181 6958427 (h)(0171 7373131(w)

E250 Diesel automatic, L reg, Nautic Blue Good condition £15,000 Tel 0385 546481 or 0181 954 9978

E300 D Estate Nov '93, L, silver, high spec FMBSH, high mileage, hence price £22,500 Private sale 01273 889950.

E300 Diesel Estate, 95, Almandine, Air Cond, Extras, 18,000 miles, Value £28,495 Wheelhouse 0115 970 5555

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S500 LIMO 94L, midnight blue, cream full lthr equipped with every extra, FMBSH, 19k mls, £63,750 01473 288922

SL320 95N Azurite/Mushroom hide ultra spec Inc climate r/seats cd etc del miles £60,950, 01283 762762 TH

E220 COUPE
'95 M, 10,000 mls, Tourmaline/ mushroom leather, air/con, ESR, usual extras, top of the range CD/stereo, alarm. 1 owner, FMBSH.
£32,000.
Tel: 0181 590 6635. or 0860 797166

SL320
1995 M reg, Azurite Blue, Cream leather, rear seats, Cruise, twin air bags, 2,000 miles, FMBSH, alloys, 1 Lady Doctor owner. Cost new approx £65,000.
£59,500
0121 455 0657 B
0121 449 0122 W
0956 455732 M
Private Sale

380SEC COUPE
C reg / 85 Genuine 74,600 miles, Smoke Silver, Brown leather. Superb condition. FSH, cruise, air con, Elec seats, s/r. Latest wheels. Never carwashed. 23 mpg
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Tel: 01703 227919
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600 SEC
'93 K reg, auto, black/leather, LHD, many extra features, under 1,000 miles only. UK tax paid £75,000.
500 SEC
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Brilliant Silver/Blue Hide. Climate Control. 8 Hole Alloys, 1 Owner, 13,000 miles ... £38,995
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0831 691336

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E300 DIESEL
1993 L reg, auto. 31,000 miles, 1 owner, alarm, C/locking, E/roof / windows / mirrors Air bag, RHR, Blue metallic FMBSH
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94 M reg. Azurite Blue, Mushroom leather. Alloys, heated seats, arm rest, alarm. 18,000 miles, FMBSH. Immaculate condition.
£36,950.
Tel 0121 212 1885 (0) or 0121 454 2234 (H)

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August 94 (M) 11,500 miles. Blue/ black, mushroom leather. auto, climate control. immaculate condition.
£26,495 ono.
Tel: 0181 423 8759 Home or 01708 442332 Day

300SL
24V 1993K, Red/ leather interior, 22,000 miles.
£45,000
Tel: 0181 491 7589

560 SEC
1986 D reg in immaculate condition, Blue Black/full cream leather, 61,000 miles, Air con, FMBSH. transferable warranty. £17,000 ono. No canvassers
Tel: 01403 823471 (home)
Tel: 0181 941 7291 (office)

400SE AUTO
92 K reg, blue/ black, fawn leather, immaculate. Alloys, self-closer doors, electric seats, air-con, climate control, FMBSH. 10 months dealer warranty remaining. 43k miles.
£37,995.
01252 861233
or 0831 639903.

500SL
J-Reg Blue / Black Metallic with Burgundy leather 8-hole alloys. 49,000 miles Beautiful condition.
£48,500 ono
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500SL
1990 G, Brilliant White. Black leather interior. 1 owner only in superb condition. FMBSH, air con, heated seats. Remote central locking, colour coded & most other extras. Stunning car 87,000 miles
£39,500 Private
0171 537 4200 (W)
0181 954 4029 (H)

420 SL.
87 E reg 48,000 miles Pearl silver/ black leather interior Heated seats. Rear seats ABS Cruise control Radio/ cass Remote alarm/ immob Full History. IMMACULATE!
£24,250
Absolutely No Offers.
01372 842286

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1991 J, pearl blue, cream leather, twin air bags, ARC, ASC FMBSH 49,000 mls, 10 disc player, alarm, immob, etc. Unmarked.
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Reg 1982. Rare & beautiful in Silver with light blue h/s tops Only 74k mls. EW, alloys rad/cass, B/S Excellent mech condition FMBSH (recent new gear box, suspension, exhaust, control box, battery)
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0181 343 8232

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Andrew Pierce hears the almost naked truth about Indian harmoniums and Italian policemen

Kiki Dee's bottom line

Kiki Dee has released her first album since 1986. Called *Almost Naked*, it features Kiki nude on the front cover. The result is a striking pose of a woman of 48 looking totally at ease with herself.

It is almost 20 years since she had her only Number One single, *Don't Go Breaking My Heart*, with Elton John. The new album features her other hits such as *Amoureuse* and some new compositions.

How did you first learn to drive?

At the not so tender age of 27 at a driving school in Ewell, Surrey. Having never bothered as a teenager to learn, I only did it in the end because I could not get about.

The test was a dream. I thought I had done really well. So I was shocked when he failed me. The second time I had just had three wisdom teeth removed. One side of my face was huge and the other was badly swollen. I cannot tell you how horrible I looked.

As I never drove as well as the first time, I can only conclude that the instructor fancied me. He must have been into freaks.

What was your first car?

I had just become a pop star and bought a Mini, which remains today, the only car I have bought that was brand spanking new. And custom-made. I had the windows tinted brown, sunroof, and power steering. It was £800, which was a lot of money then. It was all part of the image.

What car do you drive now, and why?

A Golf GL. I have avoided having a car for quite a few years. But after my niece moved in three years ago, complete with car, I got hooked again, and had to have one. I just wanted something that would be reliable, not too conspicuous — like a brown Mini with tinted windows, sunroof, power steering . . .

PETER TRIEVNOR



Kiki Dee and her VW Golf: "I'm not a particularly brilliant driver. My reactions are slower. Must be the ageing process"

STEERING COLUMN

Do you like driving?

When the conditions are right and when the traffic is light. Not that I am a particularly brilliant driver. My reactions are slower. Must be the ageing process.

What is your most hated car?

The one which tailgates me on the motorway. Why don't they — men drivers that is — realise that they don't get to their destination any quicker by hanging on to my backside?

What is your dream car?

An original Alfa Romeo Spyder. When I was touring this summer I was talking about what car to get. And I saw it. A sporty car which is lovely in red. But it's not practical enough for me.

What is your worst habit in the car?

I leave the indicator light down or the radio on and run the battery flat as a pancake.

What infuriates you most about other drivers?

When they hang on to my bottom.

What is the most unusual thing you have done in your car?

I learnt to play the Indian harmonium. They have an airbag in the back and you have to pump air into them to work. I had to learn it quickly so I could play it at some gigs this summer. I had never played one before. I sat in the passenger seat, as we hurtled up motorways, with the harmonium propped on my knee blowing until I was blue in the face.

Have you ever had points on your licence?

No. But three years ago I went on a driving holiday in Tuscany and was pulled by the police. They claimed I had driven the wrong way down a one-way system, which I had not. A crowd of young Italian men surged around me as I argued. The policemen asked for my licence. They noted my age. I got a loud burst of applause from the policemen and the young men. I was so thrilled! I managed to get my fine down from £30 to £15.

What do you listen to in the car?

Talk Radio UK or plays on Radio 4.

If you were Secretary of State for Transport, what is the first thing you would do?

Slash fares on all public transport.

What is your favourite car advertisement?

I never know what cars they advertise. There was a nice one about "once driven forever smitten". It was sweet. But as for what car . . ?

Michael Kallenbach on the Trabant's revival

German joke that is having the last laugh

When the Berlin Wall collapsed six years ago last month, the rest of the world, especially West Germans, laughed at the tiny two-stroke Trabant in which East Germans spluttered to the West.

But let the Western world laugh on, for the ugly, indestructible Trabant is back with a vengance and creating interest from a variety of motoring enthusiasts. One even appears as a collectors' item at Brooks's major winter auction at the Natural History Museum in London on Monday. The annual "Trabi-Treffen", or meeting of Trabi owners, is now in its third year and there are said to be more than 60 fan clubs throughout Europe.

Last summer, in Zwickau, near Leipzig, alone 28,000 Trabi fans congregated for their own self-styled Trabi-Woodstock. Before the Berlin Wall was breached, East Germans often waited up to 15 years before they could own what was regarded as the ultimate status symbol in the Communist era. This monument to East German achievement was known to hold its original price eight years on.

As everything associated with the old East German guard was being eliminated, the workers at the Zwickau factory at Sachsenring thought their days were numbered. Since 1958, when the company was founded and the 9,000 employees thought their jobs were secure for life, more than three million Trabants — ranging in colours from dishwater grey to green — had rolled on to the streets.

The unloved car that was destined for the scrapheap of history is now back in vogue. And those being snapped up are not necessarily the ones the East Germans left lying by the road as they headed West.

Almost 500 special editions, destined for Turkey but which never quite made it to the sales floor, are now on the market in Germany for DM19,444 (£8,800) — almost as much as the VW Golf. But its new-found chicness doesn't please the die-hards.

Rudi Schmidt, who runs the Trabi Club at Velten, just outside Berlin, thinks this will put the image of the low-budget car in danger. "By making money on their new cars, the factory at Sachsenring is taking all the fun away from the rest of us."

Johannes Blecher of the Erzgebirge Trabi Club on the German/Czech border shares the same view and adds: "The Trabi has, as before, always been the cheapest car in Germany, and it would be nice to keep it that way."

Purchase prices might be rising, but the Trabant always has been, and still is, cheap to run. The two-stroke machines may sound like lawn mowers, but are relatively functional and made from a cheap fibreglass material called Duroplast — it lasts forever.

Roland Klug, who is marketing the new-look Trabi in Germany, says they are not only ideal as a second family car, but also suitable for the old east German roads, many of which remain unmodernised. The car owners were once willing to dump for under £50, now sells, second-hand for between £2,000 and £4,000, he said.

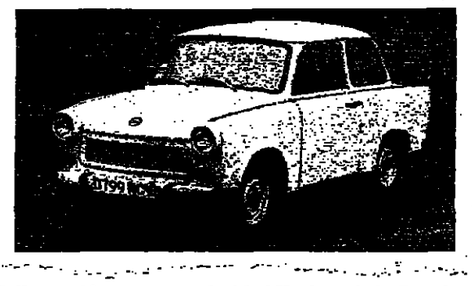
Many former East Berliners see the Trabi as a symbol of defiance and rejection of anything that smacks of capitalism. Harald Erpel, who lives in the Friedrichshain suburb of Berlin and proudly repairs Trabis, boasts about his 6.3-metre, shocking-pink limo style that he has "doctored".

"The car that was once a joke," he explains, "is today more of a cult than the Volkswagen Beetle ever was."

809

1986 TRABANT P601 TWO DOOR SALOON

Registration No: D799 NCV Chassis No: 36084342 Engine No: Not quoted



Introduced in 1959 by VEB Sachsenring Zwickau in what was then the Eastern (the German Democratic Republic), the – the Model 50 – replaced the Zwicka 500cc twin cylinder two stroke engine P70 engine, but in 1962 the capacity 594cc, and this example has the larger e

Like the P70, the Trabant featured and front wheel drive. This example has is a left hand drive model with white pa interior upholstery and trim. Imported

Collectors' item: a once-derided Trabant is in Brooks's auction catalogue on Monday

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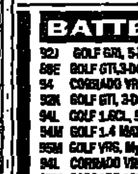
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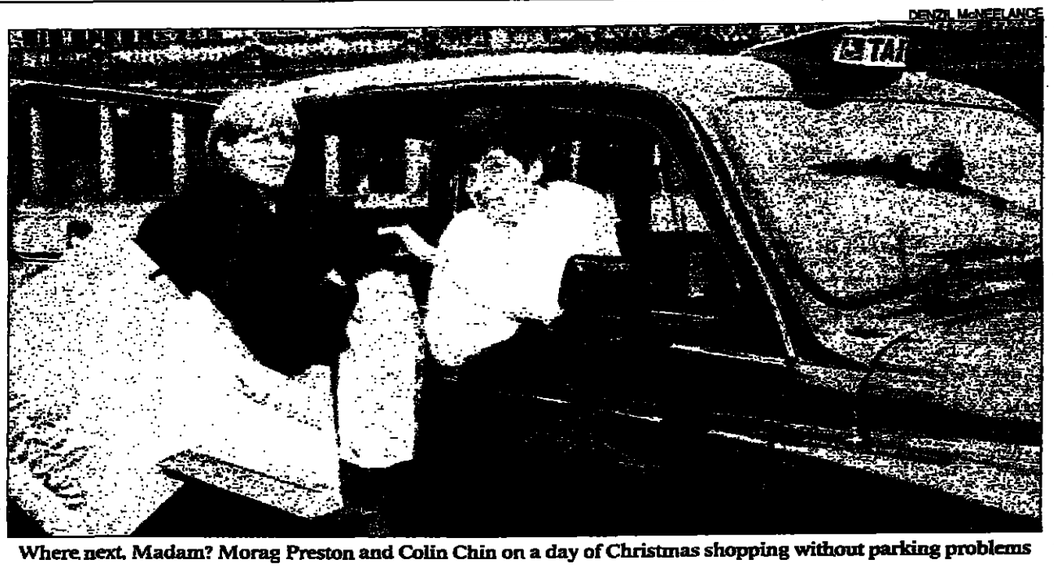
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Where next, Madam? Morag Preston and Colin Chin on a day of Christmas shopping without parking problems

Evil weather, heaving crowds and aggressive store assistants, make the thought of giving up my precious Saturday to Christmas shop for absent aunties seem like hell. But there is an answer: my very own London cab and cabbie at my beck and call.

The antidote came my way when I won a raffle at a rather swanky lunch. Courtesy of the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation, my £10 ticket transformed into a £200 ride. My carriage was on loan from Jamie Borwick, 40, chief executive of Manganese Bronze, London's largest taxi-cab makers. In the traditional "jelly mould", Mr Borwick's shiny new personal cab, sprayed a unique brown, is "club class", fitted with deeper seats, air-conditioning, soundproofing and an intercom.

Colin Chin, 35, my cabbie for the day, was at my door on the dot of nine o'clock. We drove to Safeway in Wapping and, while I toured my local supermarket, Mr Chin stayed in the car park to read his newspaper.

Mr Chin's own cab is a "G" reg Fairway in burgundy; it cost him £18,500 to buy, £400 a year to insure and £2,000 a year to maintain. He covers 35,000 miles a year, and works 10-12 hours a day, except Sundays. "I've been a cabbie for seven years and it's a chore now," he said. "When I'm not working, I tend to let the wife drive."

The son of a wealthy Chinese architect, Mr Chin began his running commentary as we made our way towards the bagel shop on Brick Lane: "Once you've conquered London, nothing else compares. Because I was dedicated, it only took me two years to get my green badge."

After a late breakfast at my brother's in Pimlico, I was heading towards the Brompton Road to browse for Christmas gifts between Harrods and Harvey Nichols, when a red car cut in front. "Driving has definitely got more aggressive," said Mr Chin. "There are so many cars on the road that people get impatient. But I'm doing a business, and can't afford to have an accident."

Mr Chin's worst passengers are "the ones that think you can read their minds" or "the ones that think they know best". Occasionally, he will pick up someone famous, but Gazza's is the only autograph he has asked for. Then there are the Americans. "They always ask you to do U-turns. But sometimes they won't come in my cab, because it isn't black."

Waiting to transport me for lunch at Mezzo in Soho, my cab was one of many outside the Hyde Park Hotel. "During the day, I like working around the South Kensington and Chelsea area," said Mr Chin. After a quick visit to the National Gallery and a pit-stop to pick up some photographs from Boots on Piccadilly Circus, Mr Chin took me for a cup of tea at the Royal Oak, London's largest taxi centre. "It is quite intimidating," he said as we drove across wasteland towards a fleet of around 60 taxis, diesel pumps, cab wash facilities, and prefabricated huts.

"I used to come here every night, but this is my first time in three years," said Mr Chin, who now prefers to meet with fellow cabbies at a Chinese in Westbourne Grove. "The green shelters are more cliquey. There's only room for seven cabbies, and they don't like new faces."

At the Royal Oak, where a solid meal costs under £4, nobody even looked round when we walked in. The 15 men were either chatting, sucking on Mars Bars and drinking tea, or watching the rugby on television.

Nowadays, Mr Chin eats his lunch in his cab and only nips out occasionally when nature calls. "They have closed down a lot of toilets, but the best ones are still on the Pimlico Road. Usually, I just run into a hotel when I'm waiting on a rank.

"The good thing about being a taxi driver is that you can do as you please. We're all a one-man band, but we help one another out. Our driving style is no different from limousine drivers. But when you're a chauffeur, you've got a boss again and you have to work to his times. The only thing that gets up my nose is the traffic."

Starting at 9am and working to 7pm, Mr Chin can take his daughters to school and drop them at Brownies on a Monday evening. "Kids like to travel in a taxi, but there's still a stigma about being a cab driver. Among the middle class, people think black taxis are just for well off people."

From Royal Oak, I went to visit friends in Archway, then to meet a girlfriend in Camden. She hopped in, and, as my curfew approached, we headed towards the Fire Station restaurant in Waterloo.

Twelve hours since my introduction to Mr Chin, he left me with two pieces of information: "There's a saying that you'll never pick up the same passenger twice" and "People used to tip before the recession, but now it's out of fashion."



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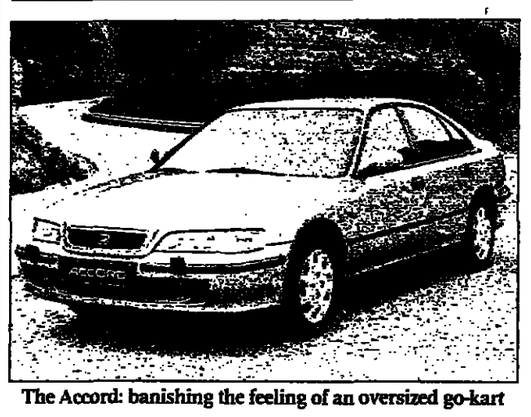
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All according to Europe's taste

Hilton Holloway explains why and how Honda did a rethink



The Accord: banishing the feeling of an oversized go-kart

When planning the 1996 Accord, Honda asked a question that would have once been unthinkable: Why have the Europeans turned off Japanese cars?

The Accord, built at Swindon and with 80 per cent European parts is free from import restrictions, yet has been outsold by nearly three to one by the more expensive Rover 600. So what has happened?

The market research found first that buyers think Japanese styling a little anonymous. So the 1996 Accord gets a stylish new nose, complete with chrome edging. The tail has also been modified and visually lifted with a chrome fillet over the number plate and chrome strips are integrated into both bumpers.

Second, Japanese cars feel rather lightweight to drive compared to the average "quality" European brands such as Audi or BMW. Steering tends to feel vague and Japanese engines need to be revved hard to gain the best performance. In Euro-minds, a feeling of "weight" equals quality.

So Honda has fitted a new European-made power steering rack which gives the Accord more pleasantly weighty steering. Changes have also been made to the suspension and body mountings have been stiffened, giving the car a quieter and more mature ride and banishing the feeling that it is an oversized go-kart.

Three new engines have also been introduced, all of which are significant additions to the range. A new 1.8-litre 115bhp engine is fitted to the basic Accord. Like all Honda engines, it is fitted with balancer shafts which give it an uncanny smoothness.

Surprise of the range is the new 150bhp 2.2 VTEC engine. Honda's VTEC system, which alters the timing of valves, can give either extra economy or performance. Unfortunately, European taste wasn't for a powerful engine that needed to be revved like a motorbike. Hence the new 2.2 unit, which feels like a good, solid, European engine. On my test drive, the VTEC had enough mid-range pull to negotiate tight mountain switchbacks in third gear without any complaint. On motorways it felt immediately fast in all gears.

The final new engine is a diesel, something Honda has always said it would never build. Indeed it hasn't, as this is the L-series Rover engine, also fitted in the 600. As a direct injection unit, it is both more economical and powerful than a conventional diesel. Sadly, in the Accord at least, it is noisier and rougher than many other oil burners.

Honda expects to sell just 5,000 TDi Accords each year, as Europe is the only significant diesel market in the world. In fact, the French are to blame for twisting Honda's arm. In the Accord's class, 80 per cent of French sales are diesel-powered.

Other Euro-biased improvements include a reduction in cabin road noise, a smoother clutch, greater headroom under a new sunroof and changes to interior plastics and fabrics. Even the doorbins have been redesigned.

In you are a private buyer, the new Accord has much to recommend it. The standard specification is generous twin airbags, remote central locking and alarm, electric sunroof, windows and mirrors, high rear stoplight and split fold rear seats. The entry level 1.8 Accord will cost less than £14,000 — a very keen price, especially for a car of this class. Add in the two-year warranty and strong second-hand demand, and it looks like a very sensible buy.

And if you can stump up around £21,000 for the excellent top-of-the-range 2.2 VTEC, you'll be driving a car that feels just as European, if not more so, than the (more expensive) flagship Rover 600.

